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# Thinning ozone layer over Europe alarms climate scientists



Tolba: CFCs a threat

SCIENTISTS expressed alarm yesterday over new figures showing that the ozone layer over the Northern Hemisphere is thinner than ever before. Had the winter been longer or colder an ozone hole might have appeared like the one over the Antarctic, exposing northern Europe and North America to increased risks of skin cancer and blindness.

"We're running out of time," said Neil Harris, of the European Ozone Secretariat in Cambridge, announcing the figures of ozone loss gathered by the 17-nation European Arctic Stratospheric Ozone Experiment. Joe Farman, the British scientist who first identified the ozone hole over Antarctica, said: "It confirms that we are taking risks with the environment." He urged governments to speed up the phasing-out of ozone-

destroying chemicals such as the chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) used in refrigerators.

Mostafa Tolba, executive director of the UN Environment Programme (Unep), formally proposed that the ban on CFCs agreed under the Montreal Protocol should be advanced by four years to the beginning of 1996. Britain, the US and the EC have already agreed to the earlier deadline. Dr Harris said people should avoid the midday sun, but that he was more alarmed by the implications for the world's climate and for plant and marine life, neither of which can cope well with increased ultra-violet radiation.

The experiment data, expected to be confirmed by satellite information gathered by the US space agency Nasa, show that the ozone layer was on average about 15 per

## Another hole in the ozone layer would expose northern Europe and North America to increased cancer risks, Nigel Hawkes writes

cent thinner over the winter months than expected. Many monitoring stations reported their lowest-ever measurements, including a 10 per cent drop in Hohenpeissenberg, Germany, in December, and an 18 per cent drop in Uccle, Belgium, in January, compared with long-term averages.

Dr Rod Jones of Cambridge University's chemistry department, one of the scientists responsible, said: "The really worrying thing is that these figures show that we had the potential to have an ozone hole. In fact, one did not occur, but these warning signals mean that in another year we

could face a very serious situation." An ozone hole would increase the amount of ultra-violet light reaching the surface of the Earth, with damaging effects on crops and an increase in skin cancer and cataracts.

Three factors have been identified as contributing to the low ozone readings. High levels of chlorine compounds, derived from CFCs, were observed in January and February. In addition, the eruption of Mount Pinatubo in the Philippines had multiplied the amount of aerosol particles tenfold, mopping up the nitrogen oxides that would otherwise have inhibited the destruction of ozone

by the chlorine compounds. Finally, there were anomalous wind and weather patterns which, even on their own, might have led to ozone loss. Together, the three factors produced record low values, at many sites.

During January, ozone was falling at a rate of 1 per cent a day. Low temperatures are necessary for ozone destruction, so in a longer or colder winter the levels might have been lower still. The worst months are now past, but fresh observations are to be mounted next winter.

The experiment team concludes: "The measurements this winter indicated the potential of the chlorine already in the stratosphere to cause large ozone loss. With the inevitability of increased ozone loading during the rest of this decade and the possibility in

other years of lower temperatures later in the winter, this potential for ozone destruction could be realised in the future."

Unep has estimated that a sustained loss of 10 per cent of the ozone would lead to between 1.6 and 1.75 million extra cataracts worldwide every year, and a 26 per cent increase in skin cancer. Speeding up the ban on CFCs would, they said, prevent 4.5 million additional cases of skin cancer and 350,000 cases of blindness.

Fiona Weir of Friends of the Earth said leading governments must take far more effective action to prevent further releases of damaging chemicals. "If the world's richest countries do not show leadership on this issue, the ozone crisis will turn into a disaster. The cost of complacency is already far too high."

## Engineers begin enquiry into cave-in after rescuers dig tunnel through five metres of fallen rock

### Trapped miners led to safety after 15 hours underground

By PAUL WILKINSON

EIGHT mineworkers trapped underground for 15 hours were led to safety yesterday. Engineers later moved into the pit, at Stillingfleet, North Yorkshire, to begin a search for the cause of the cave-in that trapped them.

A team from the mine's inspectorate of the government's Health and Safety Executive, with representatives from British Coal and the miners' unions moved into the underground roadway where the fall occurred, a mile from the pithead bottom. Their report is expected in about a month.

The rescue from one of Britain's most modern pits shortly after 8.00am yesterday had relied on the old mining techniques of pick, shovel and sweat. At one stage, rescue workers stripped to the waist in rising temperatures, struggling in a gap less than 3ft high and 18 inches wide.

British Coal had expected to release the men soon after a 50-metre section of the roof fell in at 4.45pm on Monday. But efforts to reach them were stalled for almost eight hours during the night by a huge boulder and twisted steel pit props blocking the last two metres.

The rescuers could not use

cutting gear for fear of fire. Instead they used their hands and picks and shovels, filling buckets with soil which were passed out along a human chain. They had to endure dust-laden air and poor ventilation caused by the awkward conditions.

For the last six hours, they were working one man at a time for ten-minute intervals in the tiny cavity. One British Coal official described it as "a very gritty Turkish bath".

Rescue seemed near in the early hours of the morning when the trapped men managed to pull the boulder clear but, as they did so, more debris from the roof poured into the gap, blocking their escape. Eventually, just after 8.00am, the hole was big enough again for them to crawl clear.

The men — six miners, an engineer and a deputy supervisor — had been opening up a new coal face when the 12ft-high roof gave way without warning. The men were about 500m away, working at the blind end of the tunnel.

Although debris littered a large area of the roadway, only about five metres were completely blocked.

The men, who were uninjured, used radios to summon help and hacked open a com-

pressed air line, used to power cutting equipment, to provide some ventilation.

Within an hour, the rescuers had poked a hole through to them, but difficulties with huge pieces of debris made it difficult to enlarge. The men sang to keep up their spirits and helped to speed up their release by attacking the rock from their side.

By mid-evening the rescuers had enlarged the gap so that they could shake hands with the trapped men and pass through their first food for several hours: beef and turkey sandwiches and cartons of orange juice.

It was at that point that hopes rose for an early release, but then the rescuers encountered the giant boulder blocking their path.

At first, they tried to burrow beneath it and then over the top. For several hours, the escape tunnel made no forward progress and the trapped miners were ordered to switch off all but one of their helmet lights to conserve power.

Eventually, the path was cleared and the eight were given medical checks at the scene by a doctor and nurse who had gone down with the rescue teams.

On the surface, they had showers and downed several cans of lager to wash away the dirt inside before going straight home to their families and bed.

Ken Capstick, vice-president of the National Union of Mineworkers in Yorkshire, said that it had been a magnificent effort by the rescue team, and the trapped men were in good spirits. They were fit and well, although extremely tired.

Alan Houghton, British Coal's area director, said that the rescue had been difficult and dangerous and carried out under the most awkward of circumstances.



All-night effort: union leader Ken Capstick, right, leaving the pit with one of the rescuers yesterday

## Human costs cast shadow on future

THE rescue of the eight trapped miners in the Selby coalfield highlights the advances in pit safety and underground rescue techniques over the past decade.

It also shows that the cost of coal can be tragically high. Many within the industry were also saying yesterday that it is a cost which makes the industry unattractive for privatisation.

The rescue operation involved men from the area Mines Rescue Service, all coal-face workers who have undergone intensive training in first aid and the use of breathing apparatus and cutting and lifting equipment.

British Coal is proud of the progress it has made in pit

British Coal's safety record is high but the mining industry remains a hazardous one. David Young reports chilling statistics

safety over the past few years and says that coal mining is now less hazardous than at any time. Before nationalisation an average of 2,000 lives a year were lost in coal-mining. In 1947, the first year of nationalised coal, 618 men were killed in pit accidents. Last year there were 12 coalfield deaths but according to Health and Safety Executive figures, in terms of serious and fatal injuries per 1,000 workers, mining is still Britain's most hazardous occupation. There are more deaths and injuries in the

construction industry, but in proportion to numbers involved coal mining still has more deaths and serious injuries than any other industry.

The annual rate per 1,000 workers in all industries is 0.9. In mining it is 8.4. Construction has 2.89 fatal and major injuries per 1,000 workers; agriculture 1.6; energy 2.4; forestry 2.8; and the chemical industry 1.57.

The executive's figures disclose that the proportion of death and major injuries per 1,000 workers within British Coal is rising. Figures since

the miners' strike of 1984-85 show that the proportion rose from 7.7 in 1986-87 to 8.4 in 1990-91. In 1989-1990 there were 19 deaths in the industry, including those in licensed private pits. Last year there were 12.

That reduction in the death rate, British Coal insists, is a true reflection of the fact that the industry is becoming safer. The company says the number of people involved in serious accidents has dropped from a high of 982 in 1986-87 to 510 last year.

The unions oppose changes being made in working hours agreements, which they say are to prepare the industry for privatisation but which are affecting safety.

## Soccer riot case will go ahead

The case against 19 Manchester United supporters facing riot charges will be pursued, the Crown Prosecution Service said yesterday.

A trial appeared to be in doubt after the High Court ruled on Monday that the prosecution could not appeal against a judge's refusal to allow police to give evidence from behind screens. Greater Manchester Police said that the trial might collapse if undercover officers who infiltrated an alleged group of soccer hooligans were not allowed to protect their identities while giving evidence.

But the CPS said it intended to pursue the case and will ask for it to be listed as soon as possible. It is believed the prosecution can make a fresh application to the trial judge for the officers to be screened from view. The 19 defendants face charges including conspiracy to riot, riot and causing violent disorder.

## Teenaged gang robs post office

Three masked teenagers who robbed a post office yesterday included a boy aged 13 or 14 and a girl, police said. The gang escaped with a "substantial sum" from the post office in Easton, Bristol.

There were two staff members but no customers in the shop during the morning raid. One of the gang is thought to have had a weapon hidden in a plastic bag. He used it to smash a hole in a security screen before demanding cash. The money was pushed through the hole

## Activists admit Becher's attack

Animal rights activists claimed responsibility yesterday for an arson attack that destroyed Becher's Brook, the most formidable fence on the Grand National course.

The fire occurred on Sunday night as security at Aintree wound down after the race on Saturday. Robin Webb, of the Animal Liberation Front, said the claim was made by a woman who telephoned his home. "I would imagine Becher's Brook was chosen as the most infamous of the jumps which has caused the suffering of many horses," he said.

## Player cleared

A rugby player was yesterday cleared of fracturing an opponent's skull during a match. The case at Leeds Crown Court against Kevin Carr, the Upper Wharfedale lock forward, was halted after two team-mates said another player had hit Keith Astbury, the Wetherby prop forward. Recorder Benjamin Nolan ordered a police inquiry into allegations of a cover-up into how Mr Astbury was injured.

## Back on the air

Radio Caroline, the former pirate station, was legally back on air yesterday after winning a four-week community radio licence. The station on the Ross Revenge, berthed in Dover harbour, Kent, burst into life at midnight. Its output can be heard in Dover and surrounding areas. The pirate station operated for 27 years before being silenced in April last year by the 1990 Broadcasting Act.

## £10,000 reward

The Post Office is offering a £10,000 reward for information leading to the conviction of two armed raiders who fired a shotgun at a screen during a raid on a post office in Shorelitch High Street, east London, yesterday hitting a woman employee with glass and pellets. The two men took an undisclosed sum of money. The woman, thought to be in her twenties, was taken to hospital.

## BR denies plan for closures

By MICHAEL DYNES  
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH Rail yesterday dismissed claims by rail union officials that large sections of the network would have to be shut if the industry were privatised under a new Conservative government.

Loss-making lines in England and Wales would be closed and more than a dozen InterCity services demoted to regional status, union officials said. The cuts would mean the closure of about 255 stations and the loss of 30,000 jobs, they added.

The threatened lines were said to include those between Exeter and Barnstaple and between Newquay and Par in the South-West, Lowestoft and Ipswich and Norwich and Sheringham, in East Anglia, and between Shrewsbury and Dovey Junction and between Aberystwyth and Pwllheli, in North Wales. The InterCity lines named included those between London and Norwich, Colchester and Ipswich, and Leeds and Bradford, officials said.

Jimmy Knapp, the rail union chief, said that the "spectre of Beeching" had returned. Rail officials insisted that the documents purporting to show a BR privatisation list were full of errors and had no official status.

## ITV licensees fail to agree new scheduling system

NEW Channel 3 licensees failed yesterday to reach agreement on arrangements for the commissioning and scheduling of networked programmes after last-minute wrangling over programme pricing and the size of each company's contribution to the annual £500 million network budget.

The Independent Television Commission had planned to publish details of the new system yesterday, but was forced to call off its press conference after the ITV companies failed to agree the final terms of the new network supply contract and programme licence.

"We just aren't ready, but not because there have been any major disagreements. There are just some niggly little points that need sorting," David Shaw, the ITV Association chairman, said. "The documents are so damn complex they need careful legal scrutiny. We are not dragging our heels at all," he said.

Originally the new central scheduling system, which will end the ITV programme supply cartel next year by allowing Britain's 900 independent producers to compete directly with the broadcasters, was meant to be agreed and approved by the ITC on January 31.

Although the principles of

ITV's ratings lead over BBC1 could be jeopardised by programming delays, writes Melinda Wittstock

the new system were agreed with the ITC two weeks ago, the ITV Association said yesterday that the new system will not now be in place until late this month or early May.

Only then will the companies be able to begin to choose the executives who will ultimately decide what programmes appear on the ITV network.

ITV said it was no longer looking for a "super-scheduler", opting instead to split the important job between two executives after two candidates best suited to the job. Michael Grade, Channel 4's chief executive, and Greg Dyke, LWT's chief executive, turned it down. The companies plan to hire a chief executive to administer commissioning and scheduling and a programme director to handle day-to-day scheduling. They would be joined by a team of commissioning editors.

Those now being considered for the central scheduling jobs include Paul Bonner, the ITVA's programme plan-

ner, and directors of programming at a number of ITV companies, including LWT's Marcus Platin, Yorkshire's John Fairley and Central's Andy Allan.

From May, the Office of Fair Trading will have six months to ensure the new arrangements are fair and competitive.

Programme-makers yesterday said they feared the delay could be detrimental to the network, as it would again postpone commissioning for ITV's autumn 1993 schedule. That could jeopardise ITV's ratings lead over BBC1. However, the new licensees already have interim arrangements in place for the first nine months of next year.

Disagreements persist as to how much the big nine independent television companies should subsidise the smallest six. It has not yet been decided how much of a discount the smaller companies should get on networked programmes.

It is understood there is still some haggling over how much each of the larger companies should contribute to the overall network budget. At the time of last October's widely criticised blind-bid auction, it was feared that the wide gap between cash bids — from Central's £2,000 to Yorkshire's £37.7 million — would inhibit agreement.

## Detector sniffs out Semtex

By NICK NUTTALL  
TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

A CHEAP, portable bomb detector that can detect a range of explosives, including Semtex, one of the most difficult to identify, has been developed by a British firm.

At the heart of the Viper device, which weighs less than 40lbs, is a unit that sweeps high volumes of air through a filter where explosive chemicals are trapped. The design means that 60 times more air is swept through than conventional detectors. Richard Wheelton, of the Cambridge company AI, which developed the device, said:

"The filter is fitted to another part of the unit where trapped chemicals are analysed giving a read-out in seconds. The high volume of air swept through means that even the low pressure chemicals given off by a 300 to 500 gramme Semtex bomb can be detected if the explosive is in non-hermetically sealed bags."

Mr Wheelton said that Viper, which will be launched in Britain and America next month, will cost about £15,000. Bigger conventional devices cost between £100,000 and several million pounds.

## Hotel puts price on ultimate break

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, TRAVEL CORRESPONDENT

WHATEVER happens tomorrow, the Gleneagles hotel fully expects to clean up as the seriously rich either drown their sorrows or celebrate in style with Britain's most expensive package holiday.

The luxurious Scottish hotel yesterday launched its "Heaven Can Wait" five-day package costing £4,625 a head and will have staff waiting by the telephone for the expected flood of post-election bookings.

Neil Woodcock, the hotel's marketing director, said: "Despite the recession, there are still people who can afford to pay a realistic price for a five-day break."

"They want to do something which they know will take all the hassle out of what will probably be the only break they will have for some time and one which they can calculate the cost precisely well in advance."

For the £4,625, guests will have to make their own way to either Edinburgh or Glasgow airport to be met there by the hotel's Rolls-Royce for the journey to Gleneagles. They can use any of the sporting and leisure facilities, including golf, clay pigeon shooting and horse riding.

A private helicopter tour of Scotland is included,

with a presentation bottle of whisky with the client's name on the label, afternoon tea with Lady Mansfield at Stone Palace and four nights in the hotel's best suite, the Royal Lochanagar. The price covers all food and drink, including a picnic in a remote but picturesque spot.

Mr Woodcock has offered the holidays for sale in America and although no takers have yet signed up he is confident that the handful of people who are prepared to pay for a really individual travel experience will come.

The Lochanagar suite is being reserved for the rest of the year for the "heaven can wait" holidaymakers, many of whom are expected to come from Britain.

For those not quite as ready to splash out the best part of £10,000 for two, however, the travel trade has dozens of offers open which they expect to sell quickly after the election.

Rosemary Astles, marketing director of Thomson Holidays, said pre-election sales were down at least 30 per cent down but once the uncertainty was ended "we fully expect to see sales up by as much as 50 per cent, provided there is no hung parliament, which will only add to the uncertainty".



## Pit bull terriers rip off man's ear after escape from garage

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

TWO pit bull terriers broke loose from a garage and ripped off an ear from a man who was passing by.

The dogs turned on police who arrived outside the garage in South Ealing, west London, early yesterday morning to find one animal with George Daszczyk's head in its mouth while the other was attacking his feet. Officers used truncheons to try to get the dogs off their victim. The animals were shot by an officer from an armed response vehicle who was called to the scene.

The garage owner was later released on police bail last night after being questioned. The two guard dogs are believed to have been kept in the

cab of a truck and tore their way through an inch-thick wooden garage door. The garage is set back from the road among terraced houses.

The dogs attacked Mr Daszczyk, aged 40, who was visiting his girlfriend's flat, when he went to see what was causing the noise. Mr Daszczyk, a communications consultant from Kensington, west London, was taken to Mount Vernon hospital near Rickmansworth for emergency treatment. His severed right ear was found at the scene by police and taken to the hospital. In four hours of micro surgery, surgeons sewed back the ear. It will be five days before they know if it has been saved.

Mr Daszczyk said last night: "When I heard the dogs barking I went to the garage where they were kept. I was curious to see what was going on because of the racket. The next thing I knew, my whole leg was dragged in under the door and they pulled off one of my trainers. They had broken through the bottom of the door and were about to escape."

Mr Daszczyk said that he ran to a neighbour round the corner who refused to let him in but telephoned the police. As Mr Daszczyk made his way back to the flat the dogs ran down an alleyway towards him. "One of them jumped up and bit off my ear then they pulled me to the ground." He said one of the dogs was about a year old and the other was fully grown. "I wasn't really frightened and I couldn't feel any pain. I thought if I kept punching their snouts, they might go away. I was wearing a big overcoat which probably saved me from even worse injuries."

"I couldn't believe what was happening. I've got a chunk of calf missing. One of them chewed it off and swallowed it and I'm covered in gashes where they bit into me. There are big gaps of flesh in my skin."

Theresa Brown, aged 21, whose house overlooks the garage, said police beat at the dogs with truncheons but they would not let go of their victim. "They had to drive the car right up to the dog with their lights and sirens on." She said the dogs were shot from about 15 yards away.

Superintendent Keith Trowbridge said that a police marksman fired six shots from an automatic rifle into the animals.

Mr Trowbridge said of the bull terriers: "If they are guard dogs they must either have a handler or be tethered. We believed these dogs are registered."

A three-man team led by consultant plastic surgeon David Gault performed the operation on Mr Daszczyk. Stephen Levers, the director of operational services, said that Mr Daszczyk also had lacerations to his left ear and the left side of his face, wounds on both arms, his chest, left and right calves and the right leg. He was also suffering from acute shock. "His wounds are horrific and numerous micro stitches were needed to fix them, but he is not in any danger now."

He said Mr Daszczyk would probably be released in a week's time. Asked if he would be scarred for life, Mr Levers replied: "I leave you to draw your own conclusions."

## Register holds 6,500 animals

THE Dangerous Dogs Act, brought in last year in response to public concern at the risks from pit bull terriers and other fighting dogs, has resulted in 6,500 animals being registered. These dogs have met requirements including neutering, marking with a microchip and identifying tattoo, and having third party insurance cover.

The number of pit bulls is unknown but when the act was introduced 8,200 dogs were notified to index keepers. The Home Office believes 1,000 dogs have been put down or exported. As work on the index is completed, local police will be told of 700 dogs outstanding and begin checks on owners.

The act creates a number of criminal offences surrounding the animals, which must be muzzled in public and be

in the control of someone over 16. Owners must also ensure dogs do not stray and police may seize animals and seek a court order to destroy them.

Ownership of an unregistered animal can bring a maximum penalty of £2,000 and/or six months in jail. If a dog is dangerously out of control in public similar penalties are available to the courts.

In London, the index was notified of 1,984 animals. Inspector Mark Matthews, who is monitoring the act for Scotland Yard, said that 55 animals, mainly pit bulls, have been put down on court orders and another 100 destroyed after being surrendered to police. He said that most dangerous dogs police were being asked to deal with under the act were not pit bulls and the breed was being seen less often in public.



The victim: Mr Daszczyk in hospital yesterday



Battle ends: Joy Court, whose campaign changed police selection policy

## Police pay for barring woman from CID job

BY CRAIG SETON

A WOMAN police officer has won substantial compensation for sex discrimination from Derbyshire police and an apology from her chief constable after proving that her attempts to become a detective were blocked by a quota system operated within the force's criminal investigation department.

WPC Joy Court, aged 36, tried for five years to win a transfer to the CID, where her husband works, but was rejected. She became a detective last year but continued an action for sex discrimination.

The Police Federation, which took up her case, said yesterday that she had been awarded a substantial four-figure sum in a settlement with the force negotiated by Acas, the arbitration service.

John Newing, chief constable of Derbyshire, yesterday said that the force was reviewing its policy over CID attachments to ensure that there was no further discrimination. He said: "Senior management of the

force took the view that there was statistical evidence to show a quota system was in operation within the CID and that PC Court had been disadvantaged."

"People within the force have to appreciate that equal opportunities policies mean just that. In the future, people will be selected for posts on merit, regardless of gender or race."

Geoffrey Towle, secretary of the Derbyshire branch of the Police Federation, said yesterday that an unofficial quota system had operated within the CID to restrict the number of women detectives. No more than two women were allowed to work on any sub division. "This was an unwritten system. There was nothing in the force's policy to allow it to happen. It was openly talked about in CID but the problem was, nobody was prepared to address it. Women were not being judged equally with men."

Mr Towle said senior officers within the CID "were content to operate this sys-

tem and it was allowed to continue". The police service was male-dominated and there were difficulties for women.

WPC Court, an officer for 17 years, is now a detective in the Full Street station in Derby. She and her husband have no children.

Last year, the number of officers in the Derbyshire force was about 1,770, of which 177 were women. There are 212 male detectives and 33 women. The Metropolitan police said yesterday that it had an equal opportunities policy. Of its 25,000 officers, 3,734 were women and its CID had 3,817 male and 277 female officers.

A recent police conference on equal opportunities heard other evidence of discrimination against women in the police. A female officer wanting to join a motorcycle course was told she first had to prove she could lift a heavily loaded 1,000cc machine left lying on its side, although no male officers had to pass the test.

## Employers fear schools neglect literacy skills

BY JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

EMPLOYERS believe that standards of literacy and numeracy, the basic educational skills they most value, are slipping because schools are devoting too much attention to computing and word processing.

Almost two-thirds of the 227 companies surveyed last month by academics at Kingston Polytechnic reported that these skills had declined over the past five years. Communication skills had also worsened among school leavers recruited by the firms.

Although the same proportion had noted an improvement in computing skills, most employers provided their own training tailored to particular systems. Increased competence in typing and word processing also left employers largely unimpressed.

Many firms were so concerned about their young employees' literacy and numeracy that they were offering remedial classes. However, Nick Turner and Steve Smith, who did the research for the Alfred Marks employment agency, calculated that communication and team skills were in most demand.

Their report, *Britain's Education*, says: "The traditionalists' call for a straightforward refocusing of teachers' efforts on the basics does not appear to be what business is asking for." Only literacy came out ahead of communication skills in the employers' scale of priorities.

Dr Smith said yesterday: "The evidence suggests that business is extremely dissatisfied with a whole series of skills, although people always look at the past through rose-tinted spectacles. Schools seem to have responded to a demand for better skills in information technology only to find that employers' priorities have shifted."

More than half the firms said that school leavers were badly prepared for work, failing to adapt to an office regime and considering their outside activities more important.

Mr O'Leary said that the findings mirror preliminary results of a larger survey by the government-funded Adult Literacy and Basic Skills Unit, which show that 13 per cent of employers believe their workers' numeracy and literacy to be barely adequate, or worse. Almost 30 per cent of the 40,000 companies surveyed were concerned about the standard of written English among applicants for jobs.

The findings mirror preliminary results of a larger survey by the government-funded Adult Literacy and Basic Skills Unit, which show that 13 per cent of employers believe their workers' numeracy and literacy to be barely adequate, or worse. Almost 30 per cent of the 40,000 companies surveyed were concerned about the standard of written English among applicants for jobs.

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## QC pledges to contest extradition

The chairman of the Bar Council pledged yesterday to refer the case of Britain's longest-serving extradition prisoner to the home secretary immediately after the election.

Gareth Williams, QC, joined more than 60 candidates of all parties to highlight the plight of Lorraine Osman, in his seventh year at Brixton prison, south London.

Mr Osman, aged 60, a millionaire barrister, is fighting extradition to Hong Kong on £452 million fraud charges, which he denies. He says that he fears he will not get a fair trial in the colony. He has applied seven times on various grounds for a writ of habeas corpus but on each occasion has failed.

"Following the result of the general election, I will take up this case with the home secretary," Mr Williams said.

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## Minerals extractors look north

BY NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

ENVIRONMENTALISTS said yesterday that increasing numbers of sites in Scotland could be turned over to minerals extraction as quarrying companies seek less politically sensitive locations north of the border.

The warning, issued on the day that a public enquiry opened in Frome, Somerset, into plans to extend Whitley quarry in the east Mendips Hills, follows a series of recent proposals and planning applications for sites, mainly in western Scotland, for vast "super" quarries.

Groups such as the Council for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) and Friends of the Earth Scotland, believe these Scottish proposals signal an attempt by companies which extract gravel, rock, limestone and other construction minerals to transfer operations to remote areas as opposition grows to their operations south of the border. Local and national campaigns have been launched against planning applications after recent forecasts indicating a 66 per cent rise in minerals demand between now and 2011.

"It is going to become harder and harder for the companies to get planning permission in England and Wales and they appear to be seeing their sights on more remote locations in Scotland," said Ben Plowden, CPRE's minerals campaigner.

Science, L & T section, page 6

## Asthma enquiry to study role of drugs Hospital cases treble in ten years

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

A BIG enquiry into the high rate of asthma deaths is to consider whether modern drug treatments are making the disease worse and increasing the risks for sufferers.

The enquiry, launched yesterday by the National Asthma Campaign's UK task force, will try to explain why the disease appears to be getting worse when effective drug treatments are more widely available and used.

Hospital admissions for asthma have trebled in the past ten years and risen five-fold among young children. The annual death rate from the disease rose to a peak of 2,000 in 1988 since when it has fallen only slightly. Failure to reduce the rate was serious, if not scandalous,

Donald Lane, chairman of the task force, said.

Treatments for asthma, which affects two to three million people, have doubled in the past ten years. The enquiry will consider if the disease is increasing or becoming more severe, whether drugs to treat it may be dangerous and whether some people are not getting the treatment they need.

Evidence from abroad suggests there has been a worldwide increase in atopic disease (hypersensitivity) including hay fever and eczema as well as asthma, according to Peter Burney, reader in public health at St Thomas's hospital, London. Asthma is worse in the north, west and southwest of Britain. In devel-

oping countries it is common in the towns but almost unknown in rural areas. The reasons are unclear but Dr Burney said that pollution was unlikely to be a factor. "Pollution has got better since the 1950s, not worse," he said. There is still doubt as to how much of the increase is due to doctors being readier to diagnose wheezy patients as asthmatic.

Researchers will examine all deaths from asthma in East Anglia, the West Midlands, Wessex, Scotland and Wales. Details will be collected from doctors and relatives on the circumstances of the death, the treatment received and the severity of the illness. The enquiry will also examine the safety of the asthma drugs

and consider deficiencies in treatment.

Heart disease causes 12 million premature deaths every year and is spreading from the rich countries to the poorer ones, the World Health Organisation said yesterday in a report marking World Health Day.

Six million deaths, half the world total, now occur in developing countries, and in the next decade heart disease will overtake infectious diseases as a cause of death in these countries, WHO said. The totals amounted to a world-class coronary catastrophe, the Geneva-based agency said. The report said that half of deaths from coronaries and strokes could be prevented by more healthy living.

## Developer had listed chapel blown up

BY RICHARD DUCE

A PROPERTY developer hired a quarryman for £7,000 to damage a 19th century listed chapel with explosives after he was refused planning consent to replace the building with flats, a court was told yesterday.

Peter Denega, aged 42, of Torquay, Devon, had intended to demolish the chapel and build a new one. He was refused planning consent to replace the building with flats, a court was told yesterday.

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Andrew Chubb, for the prosecution, said: "The effect of the explosion far exceeded what they intended and the facade was destroyed."

The court was told that Mr Denega had bought the chapel from South Hams council in 1988 and soon after was refused listed building consent to demolish it and develop 21 sheltered housing units. He won an appeal to the environment department, on condition that the original facade, with its four Ionic columns, was retained.

Mr Mann admitted executing the demolition and Denega admitted causing work to be done that would result in changing or demolishing a listed building. They will be sentenced today.

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## Blot on the landscape goes from Bard to best

THE English car park, a leading blot on the landscape in which motorists are mugged and vehicles ravaged against the sides of narrow ramps and concrete pillars, took an uncertain step towards respectability yesterday.

The Duke of Gloucester presented the first English Tourist Board car park awards in London, a venture which means that the best of them will be able to display plaques normally reserved for historic buildings. Calling for better car parks, he said: "We expect good management in other forms of life. There's nothing more infuriating than finding car parks which don't have it."

The awards, sponsored by Rover Cars, were launched in response to recommendations



## Court blocks £14m sale of sports field given to town

BY FRANCES GIBB AND RONALD FAUX

SOME 21,000 residents won High Court backing yesterday in their fight to stop a council's multi-million-pound plan to sell for commercial development a 22-acre playing field given by a local benefactor.

The council's proposals were blocked by the High Court in the first of two test cases expected to have an important impact on the protection of open spaces held by local authorities on charitable trust for the public benefit.

Residents were celebrating last night after Mr Justice Chadwick ruled that the court had no power to authorise Oldham borough council, Greater Manchester, to sell Clayton playing fields. The plan to sell the fields was opposed by 21,000 people, 4,000 of whom formed the Clayton Action Group to fight the proposals with the Open Spaces Society.

On Monday, local residents had celebrated with fireworks, banners and a cavalcade of cars the 30th anniversary of the gift of the 24 acres of green space.

The council is considering an appeal. It regards its scheme to sell the site to a developer for £14 million as "a unique opportunity" to upgrade recreational facilities in the area by using money raised to provide and maintain new playing fields elsewhere. A Marks & Spencer and a Safeway store and 1,800 parking spaces were planned for the site.

The Attorney-General, Sir Patrick Mayhew, QC, who was represented by counsel in the case in his role as protector of charities, was awarded costs against Oldham council, which cannot sell without court sanction.

Wendy Lutley, assistant general secretary of the Open Spaces Society, said later that

there could be many parks and recreation grounds given to councils by benefactors or acquired by public subscription where the wording in the deeds implied that there was a charitable trust. The society would be asking local authorities to check deeds, take legal advice and, if appropriate, register these pieces of land with the Charity Commission to give them some long-term protection.

Jim Young, chairman of the action group, said the playing fields were once a large hole in the ground bought by the late Ina Clayton, a local haulier, as a dump for millions of tons of fly ash he had contracted to remove from power stations.

By the early 1960s, Mr Clayton was a millionaire and the hole had been filled, turfed over and given to the citizens of Royton, Chadderton and Coldhurst, all districts of Oldham. The council put six football pitches on the land and the remainder became a popular open space. "It is a lovely spot on a high elevation with views over a country park in one direction, out to the Pennines in another and over the old mills of Oldham and south to Manchester."

David Shipp, director of legal services for Oldham, whose court costs are being met by the developers, InterCity, said: "It is not over yet and I think serious thought will be given to an appeal."

The judge's ruling against Oldham on the main issue in the dispute — whether the court had power to sanction a sale of the land held on charitable trust by the council — meant that Oldham's case fell at the first fence. Unless the council wins on appeal, the judge will not have to consider other arguments over the merits of the sale.



Treasure trove: Brigitta Huybrejtsen of Christie's with some of the porcelain

## Buyers dive for sunken treasure

FROM SARAH JANE CHECKLAND  
SALEROOM CORRESPONDENT, IN AMSTERDAM

THOUSANDS of porcelain items raised from the sea-bed off Vietnam were sold for up to seven times their estimated price at Christie's in Amsterdam yesterday. By the time the sale of 28,000 lots from the Vung Tau cargo ends today, it is expected to have raised about £5 million.

The morning session raised £870,575, about the sum expected for the whole day. A pair of rare beakers from the 17th century Chinese cargo sold for 44,850 guilders (£14,059), having been estimated at 6,000 guilders. Four blue and white tazze, or bowls on tall stems, fetched 32,200 guilders (£10,094). Among the most active bidders were British-based dealers and one from Taiwan.

Although dozens of lots were identical, there were often big differences in their prices. Sometimes this was due to minute differences in quality, but often the reason was what one dealer called the "last-chance syndrome".

As a category began to run out, buyers panicked and prices rose accordingly. "Sometimes the last lot was half broken, and yet it fetched half as much again as the first," David Howard, of Heirloom and Howard, said. Colin Sheaf, the auctioneer, announced at the start of selling that "all lots are sold as is".

The cargo, named after

the town closest to where it was found, was discovered three years ago by a fisherman who caught it in his nets. The Vietnamese Salvage Corporation, a state-owned monopoly, established a partnership with the Swedish diving company Sverker Hallstrom to salvage the cargo. The two companies will share the proceeds of the sale.

Archaeologists believe that the wreck was a East Asian trading vessel bound for Batavia — now Jakarta, Indonesia — one of the centres for the Dutch trading empire. It probably sank because of a fire caused by one of the 14 cooking pots found on deck.

Before the auction, some dealers were fearful that Christie's was flooding the market with blue and white porcelain. Items from the Nanking cargo sale in 1986, that had been offered back on the market recently, had not fared well, they said.

The Vietnamese government delegation to the sale would not comment on any plans to salvage further wrecks believed to be beneath the South China Sea. Le Minh Cong, general director of the transport ministry, acknowledged the existence of further wrecks, but said: "Right now we couldn't say anything about the future. Each case we will submit to the government."

## Kiss saves baby from bath death

A baby saved by ambulance men after being found floating face-down in a bath was back home yesterday.

Stephen Jarve, aged four months, was being bathed by his mother Helen, aged 28, at their home in Maghull, Merseyside, when she slipped and fell, knocking herself unconscious. When she came to after an unknown time, the dazed mother could not see Stephen and made a panic-stricken 999 call.

An ambulance crew searched the house but it was only when Mike Smith, an ambulance officer, brushed back bubbles in the bath that the baby was found unconscious. Mr Smith gave the baby the kiss of life and his colleague Mark Brooks applied heart massage. As the ambulance drove to hospital the baby spluttered and started to cry. His mother said yesterday: "We owe his life to the ambulance men."

## Robber jailed

David Freeland, a psychotherapist aged 58, was jailed for 14 years by Oxford crown court yesterday for armed robberies at banks in Stourbridge, West Midlands, Great Malvern, Hereford and Worcester, and Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire.

## Howard tonic

Frankie Howard, the 70-year-old comedian who was admitted to the Harley Street Clinic in London last week with heart trouble, left intensive care yesterday and was moved into his own room.

## Mast plan off

BT has shelved plans to build a 100ft radio mast with satellite dishes on Trundle Hill, overlooking Goodwood racecourse in West Sussex.

## Firm closes

Mansfield Knitwear of Hull, part of the Coats Virella group, is to close with the loss of 196 jobs.

## Royal visit

The King and Queen of Sweden began a three-day visit to the Irish republic.

## Pope refuses compromise on celibate priests

BY RUTH GLEDHILL  
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE Pope yesterday affirmed celibacy for the priesthood, despite pressure from Catholics in Third World countries to meet a shortage of priests by allowing married ordinands, and a belief that celibacy is contributing to a crisis in vocations in the West.

John Paul says in an apostolic exhortation: "For an adequate priestly spiritual life, celibacy ought not to be

considered and lived as an isolated or purely negative element, but as one aspect of a positive, specific and characteristic approach to being a priest." He describes celibacy as "a singular source of spiritual fertility in the world" and adds: "It is especially important that the priest understand the theological motivation of the church's law on celibacy."

The shortage in the Third World has left some priests ministering to many thousands of people over wide

areas, with some communities going without a weekly mass. In Britain, the number of men wishing to become priests is in slow decline. Nearly 90 began training for the secular priesthood in England and Wales in 1990, compared with 104 in 1989, 107 in 1988 and 144 in 1982.

The Pope writes of "rejoicing at the growth and increase of priestly vocations now taking place in some parts of the world." He says that some priests are exhausted by their increas-

ing pastoral activities and calls for systematic training throughout a priest's life.

The exhortation, *Pastores dabo vobis* (I will give you shepherds), was welcomed by Catholic priests in England. Monsignor Peter Smith, rector of St John's seminary, Womersley, Surrey, said that it gave "an authoritative backing to what we are trying to do in the seminaries and confirms all the work of development which has taken place over recent years."

## Five years from now, will you be able to change your communications architecture as easily?

Despite what some companies may tell you, the future direction of communications technology is practically impossible to predict. But whether you're a telephone company or its customer, you have to make choices now. Stand alone or networked? Public or private? Wired or wireless? With so much uncertainty, how can you ever plan ahead?

Frankly, it's difficult. You have to be sure your supplier can offer you a range of solutions. Hopefully, they'll be solutions that will work for a long time, so you won't have to take a chance on somebody's unproven idea of what you'll be needing one day.

At AT&T, we don't claim to know exactly what your future requirements will be. Nobody knows that. But we have the track record to ensure that you'll be as safe as you can be. Our AT&T Bell Laboratories, for example, has invented or been a leader in virtually every mainstream trend in communications technology of the past hundred years, including fibre optics, wireless switching, and the UNIX® operating system.

This provides a pretty fair indication that our innovations today will become standard solutions in coming years, for telephone companies and their customers alike — whatever direction the future takes.



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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY APRIL 8 1992

WEDNESDAY APRIL 8

or  
ireKiss saw  
baby from  
bath dead

A baby, aged 18 months, was found dead in a bath in a house in the north of England. The mother, who was found unconscious in the bath, was taken to hospital but died. The police are investigating the case.

to where it was discovered by a fisherman in his boat. The body was found in the sea near the coast of the state monopoly. The police are investigating the case.

its believe was a last effort to save the life of the child. The police are investigating the case.

action, some fear that the situation is becoming more serious. The police are investigating the case.

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Funny, when the election  
came around,  
so did my operation.

Strange, isn't it? Thirteen years of NHS underfunding. And now, all of a sudden, a frantic, money-no-object scramble to shorten the waiting list.

Of course, the more people who get their

operations, the better. But does this really mean the end of NHS underfunding?

Can it be that the people responsible for the loss of a quarter of all NHS beds have really had a change of heart?

It would be nice to think so. But what date have Health Service Managers been given to achieve this reduction in waiting list numbers?

April 1st. Just 8 days before the election. Now there's a coincidence.

You can choose a better future. Make sure you do.

**NALGO**



# It's time to rebuild the economy.

Labour will end the recession this year with a  
£1 billion Economic Recovery Package.

**Labour** 

TO JOIN LABOUR OR TO MAKE A DONATION TO HELP OUR CAMPAIGN, PHONE 081 200 0200.

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## ELECTION 92

## Wembley rally

## Major sets out 'ten Tory truths' for a golden future

BY NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Major put himself at the centre of his appeal to the people last night, promising them a "golden future" if they placed their trust in him tomorrow.

His emotionally patriotic appeal for a personal mandate was coupled with a robust restatement of his party's philosophy — ten Tory truths — and a scornful attack on Neil Kinnock's "unprincipled thirst for power".

He said: "I have lived life in many stations. I believe I understand what makes the heart of Britain beat. What inspires all those millions of families across this land who go out each day to work and strive and create for the future. They are the people who are carrying the long, glorious story of Britain forward across the years."

"This country needs a gov-

ernment that will nourish and sustain their ambitions, widen their choices, throw open the great gates of opportunity, and help the whole nation march through.

"I have only just begun the task I have set myself. On Thursday, I ask this nation to look at my record of service and my ideals for the future, to place their trust in me, and in this party that has served them so well and faithfully. I set no bounds to my ambitions for this country or its people."

"I know that we have in our grasp a truly glorious future. At a rally in Wembley, north London, he said there were ten great reasons why his party would triumph.

Strong defence, a commitment to the free market, low taxation to create wealth, controlling inflation, implacable hostility to the "tyranny" of trade union power, nourishing the health and education services, spreading private ownership, privatising once loss-making state industries, and strong government were the hallmarks of Conservative government.

Mr Kinnock, by contrast, was trying to slip into Downing Street by a "back door" deal with the Lib Dems over proportional representation. "It's nothing to do with fair play. Everything to do with power play. And we will have nothing of it."

The Labour leader had jettisoned his principles and could not be trusted. "Look at PR. He was always against. Now, in the latest, most cynical change of all, he hitches towards it, grasping desperately at a prospect of power. Power before principles. Does he think the public cannot see what he's up to?"

"Let Dr Major diagnose

the problem. It's the 'anything for office' syndrome. And let Dr Major prescribe there is only one known cure for this disabling condition. Five years on the Opposition benches.

"As prime minister you meet challenges: you face crises. That's when principle and experience guide you. When no principle is so great it cannot be quietly forgotten, to what principles would the Labour leader resort when the going is tough? Labour would be a rudderless ship in a storm-tossed sea. Or they would, under pressure, slide back to socialist type."

Mr Major's speech to the party faithful sought to answer many of the criticisms of the Conservative campaign. It offered an unflinching defence not just of his 16 months in power but also of the upheavals since 1979. It sought to dramatise his vision of the Nineties under a Conservative government.

"I want a Britain where there is a helping hand for those who need it. Where people can get a hand up, not just a hand out. A country that is fair and free from prejudice, a classless society at ease with itself."

Mr Major scorned the socialist alternative, saying "Socialism is not a road, it's a dead end."

He added: "Britain is ready now to move forward when others are sliding backwards. All around us the signs are there. In house building, in exports, in retail sales. All that Britain is waiting for is the confidence to achieve recovery is the confidence a Conservative government will bring."

Lord St John of Fawsley, page 16  
 Leading article, page 17

## Defence of electoral reform

## Ashdown attacks 'bully tactics'

BY SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

PADDY Ashdown accused the Conservatives last night of embarking on a desperate and dangerous game by attacking voting reform. He warned voters that the Tories were trying to bully them out of support for the Liberal Democrats.

"However desperate their attacks, however weak they feel, the Conservative party will not be allowed to drag our country down with their party as they now contemplate defeat on Thursday," he told a rally in St Austell, Cornwall.

He singled out for censure Kenneth Baker who had dismissed PR as a "pact with the devil". "On this issue we Liberal Democrats will not be

swayed by the panic reaction of a failed home secretary who knows he is about to lose his job," he said.

He was prepared to debate the issue on voting reform at any time and anywhere with Mr Baker. But the Liberal Democrats would not accept "this ridiculous slur, this slander" on the decent people who wanted to modernise democracy.

Mr Ashdown said that John Major was insulting voters by telling them not to sleepwalk into the polling station. "More and more the Tories are now playing a dangerous game. They have a very simple attitude. If you don't vote Conservative, they treat you either as a fool or as

a knave." For 13 years, the Conservative party had been telling everybody what to do and it was time it listened instead.

"That way, Mr Major and his colleagues would find out where they have been going wrong. But no, their only reaction is to try and frighten you into the ballot box and to blame you for the position they are in."

The Conservatives, he said, were playing an even more dangerous card by gambling with the unity of Britain itself in claiming that the very integrity of the United Kingdom was only safe in their hands. "It is a desperate Tory line, but it is also a very dangerous Tory line."

where John Major is hindered, by fatigue. As the campaign has progressed, the leader of the opposition has looked older, wearier, and full of care. With his new glasses, the crow's feet and sad eyes lend him a statesman-like air. Short of a good night's sleep, Mr Major looks testy and grey.

But no party leader can entirely escape interviews, and Mr Kinnock has fielded his share. Here we have glimpsed the third of his three faces: "Kinnock the wriggler". I watched the interview with Jonathan Dimbleby carefully. This was a most evasive performance, reminding me of someone with whom I never thought Mr Kinnock could be compared: Margaret Thatcher.

Gone was the wild finger-snapping, gone the flights of rhetorical fancy, the strings of adjectives, the message of excited abstract nouns. Mr Kinnock held his head still and spoke with a strange, trance-like calm. His sentences, properly analysed, were at best unilluminating and at worst literally nonsensical. Is this man on drugs?

Yes, the drug is called confidence. And it is coursing through Mr Kinnock's veins. Wiggler, bishop or mascot, he has stopped sweating. He looks electable.

Mr Kinnock is helped,



Majorettes: Ruth Madoc, Lynsey de Paul, Rani Singh and Elaine Paige, supporting the Tory campaign at Langan's restaurant, London

## Kinnock rounds on 'washed up' government

FROM PHILIP WEBSTER  
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

NEIL Kinnock appealed to the electorate last night to eject a tired washed up government, opening the way for Labour to save the national health service from mortal danger and get Britain working again.

The Labour leader, speaking at the penultimate rally of his election campaign, said that by its vote tomorrow, the nation would decide the future of the health service. The choice facing Britain was between a Tory government of recession and privatisation and a Labour government of recovery and modernisation.

In his most ferocious attack on the government, he said: "The Tories have no new policies, no new ideas, no positive solutions, no ambition for our country. They are tired, they are washed up. They are like door-to-door salesmen, blue with cold, desperate to find a customer, unable to think of a new angle."

"I say to the British people that after all they have done they simply don't deserve to be re-elected. I simply say that these architects of recession, these engineers of rundown cannot be called upon to build a future."

Speaking in Blackburn, Lancashire, Mr Kinnock issued the strongest warning of the campaign that the NHS

was in peril. He said the service was the benchmark of civilisation in this century, something to be cherished and nurtured, adapted and improved.

"It is in mortal danger. Its whole future rests on the decision we take as a nation when we vote in the general election on Thursday. We can have a health service funded out of general taxation, free to everybody whenever they need it wherever they are, whatever is needed, or we can have a service split from top to bottom by a complex network of charges, of deals between patients and doctors, doctors and hospitals, hospitals and charities, charities and patients. We can have a health

service where the decisions are made by doctors or a service where the decisions are made by accountants.

"We cannot have them both. If you want the first kind of health service, you vote Labour. If you want the second kind of health service, you vote Tory. Let nobody in Britain be under any illusion that is what is at stake."

Mr Kinnock said Labour had campaigned on positive policies, on issues of concern to the people, homes, schools, health, law and order. It had campaigned on its policies to push back poverty and eradicate the poll tax. Above all, it had campaigned on its policies to get Britain working again. He scorned John Ma-

jo's claim that the Tories had created a "miraculous, historic success".

Britain was the only country in Europe in recession, a country where unemployment, poverty, homelessness and crime have all doubled or more than doubled since Mr Major and his party came to government. It had been the opposite of success. "It has been a terrible costly failure. One hundred more firms going out of business every day, 300 more families losing their homes every day, 2,000 more people going home every night with the shattering news that they have just been made redundant — and the man calls it a miraculous historic success."

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## Party's figurehead springs to life

It has been a weird and insubstantial campaign. As in one of those senseless, over-heated dress wars where something, some key to understanding it all lies just out of reach, we are always on the brink of discovering what it is about, until... suddenly we wake up. It is April 10. There is a new government, and nobody ever did explain why. Why, for instance, did it have to be April 9? Already we have forgotten. It seemed important at the time. And who, as we end the campaign, is Neil Kinnock?

One of the most Alice-Through-the-Looking-Glass moments came at the beginning, when John Smith presented his alternative Budget. He did so in the glare of the television lights, with Mr Kinnock, Jack Cunningham, and a bowlful of roses. Journalists assumed that Mr Smith was there to outline the plans. Mr Kinnock was there to take questions with him. Mr Cunningham was there to chair the proceedings, and the roses were there for decoration.

After a few questions to Mr Smith, someone asked Mr Cunningham a question. Mr Cunningham leapt in with the demeanour of a Mad March hare. The leader was not there to answer questions.



## CAMPAIGN SKETCH

MATTHEW PARRIS

said the Hare: Would the questioner please redirect his enquiry to Mr Smith? Mr Kinnock sat there mute. He was there for decoration. If Lewis Carroll had scripted this, Mr Cunningham would have allowed the roses to answer the next question.

Rather like some regimental mascot, Mr Kinnock has been carried around the country, from ceremony to ceremony, smiling wordlessly for the cameras.

It is possible that the captions to the photographs were written at Watford Road before the campaign started — the time, the place and the photo opportunity being arranged later. Neil Kinnock with smiling school children — "No, Mr Kinnock will not take questions from the press, only from the children."

Neil Kinnock with happy hospital patients — "No, the patients are not necessarily complaining about the NHS, but Mr Kinnock wanted to meet them anyway." Neil Kinnock with balloons —

"Yes, they're helium balloons — write that down, please, helium balloons, not hot air balloons. Neil Kinnock with women — "Lots of women, women all around him, notice the women? Happy women. Get the point? Mr Kinnock likes women. Women like Mr Kinnock. Look — the women are smiling."

"Kinnock the mascot" is one face, then, of the Labour leader.

But there are three. The second is "Kinnock the bishop": for it would be wrong to say that he has been totally silent. Mr Kinnock has made a series of scripted speeches around the country. It is fair to say that these have been without content, but they have been well delivered. That head-butting neck-jerk with which the Labour leader punctuates the more emotional passages of his text, has not been controlled; but apart from this subliminally alarming trait, delivery has been impressively regulated.

Mr Kinnock is helped,



## Schools

Inadequate consultation on reforms

Academic outcry

Imposition without consensus approval

Opting-out of Local Authority control

Chronic underfunding

Low staff morale and early retirement

Increasing reliance on less qualified staff

Crumbling buildings and lack of maintenance

Falling standards in the face of increased demands placed by the national curriculum

Loss of extra-curricular subjects

Increasingly dependent on fundraising and charity for basic equipment

Less parental choice

Opt-out schools selecting high achievers and rejecting pupils with special needs

PARENTS DRIVEN INTO THE PRIVATE SECTOR

INEQUALITY

## Hospitals

Inadequate consultation on reforms

Academic outcry

Imposition without consensus approval

Opting-out of Health Authority control

Chronic underfunding

Low staff morale and early retirement

Increasing reliance on less qualified staff

Crumbling buildings and lack of maintenance

Falling standards as resources are spent on spiralling administration costs

Loss of services

Increasingly dependent on fundraising and charity for basic equipment

Less patient choice

Fundholders favouring healthier patients: loss of vulnerable community services for those with high dependency

PATIENTS DRIVEN INTO THE PRIVATE SECTOR

INEQUALITY

A POORLY EDUCATED AND LESS HEALTHY POPULATION

WHY???

NHS Support Federation  
National Confederation of Parent Teachers Associations  
National Union of Students  
NHS Consultants Association

NHS Support Federation, 28 Commercial Street, London E1 6LS — Chair: Prof. Harry Keen Vice Presidents: Archbishop Trevor Huddleston, Graham Pink, Sue Townsend, Helen Zeitlin.

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## Labour majority predicted

# Poll contradicts Tory estimate of voting patterns

THE Conservative party has claimed throughout the campaign that the national polls are underestimating the number of seats they will win, because their vote is distributed more effectively across the constituency map than Labour's.

A region-by-region analysis of the large ICM/Press Association poll suggests the contrary. Its result for the country is Conservative 36.2 per cent (down 7.0 on 1987), Labour 38.7 per cent (up 7.2) and Liberal Democrats 20.4 per cent (down 2.7), a swing of 7.1 per cent from Conservative to Labour and of 3.3 per cent from Conservative to the Liberal Democrats.

Repeated in every constituency, these swings would result in Conservatives 290, Labour 311, Liberal Democrats 23, Nais 10, Irish 17. Labour would be 15 short of an overall majority but could govern with the co-operation of the Liberal Democrats.

Take regional differences in swing into account and the result is: Conservatives 281, Labour 319, Liberal Democrats 21. Labour would be seven short of an overall majority and could manage without the demanding support of the Liberal Democrats: co-operation from Plaid Cymru and the Irish SDLP, which should be fairly easy to secure, would be sufficient.

The regional pattern of swings helps Labour in three ways. First, Labour's "easy" targets — the first 50 — are disproportionately concentrated in the North-West where the swing is below average but not by enough to deprive them of these easy pickings. Second, Labour's

*Ivor Crewe finds little comfort for the Conservatives in this week's large national opinion poll*

harder targets — in the range 51st to 100th — are disproportionately concentrated in London, where the swing is slightly above the national average. Third, Labour's hardest targets of all — from 101st to 120th — are disproportionately located in the West Midlands, where Labour appears to be enjoying a 10.7 per cent swing.

Some technical caveats about the estimates should be made. The fieldwork for the poll was conducted between last Tuesday and Friday. More recently conducted polls point to a continuing rise in Liberal Democrat support since then, at the expense of the Conservatives.

The Liberal Democrats may well squeeze the Labour vote in the South-East and South-West — as happened in the final few days of the 1983 and 1987 campaigns — but find themselves squeezed by both parties in the Conservative-Labour marginals.

Although the margin of error is only plus or minus 5 per cent for the national figures, given the sample size of 10,460, it is at least plus or minus 3 per cent for the regional sub-samples, whose size is about 800 — the use of decimals rather than rounded whole numbers for regional vote shifts could therefore be over-precise.

Most of the estimated regional swings are corroborated by independent polls. The negligible swing in Scotland

corresponds to separate Scotland-only polls, the massive 10.9 per cent swing in Yorkshire and Humberside is matched by the Mori/Yorkshire Television poll of Conservative marginals and the 7.5 per cent swing in London is close to that reported in last week's Harris/LWT poll. But the below average swings in the South-West and East Anglia are lower than the regional analysis of aggregated Gallup polls — and gloomy Conservative assessments.

Finally, constituency swings can vary within regions as well as between them. Incumbent MPs, especially for the smaller parties, can defy adverse regional swings, as the constituency polls in the Liberal Democrats' super-marginal of Brecon and Radnor suggests.

*Ivor Crewe is professor of government at the University of Essex.*



On the run: Nicholas Witchell, the BBC presenter, prepares to run in Sunday's London marathon in aid of St John Ambulance encouraged by Dick Taverne, the former Social Democrat MP, left, Kate Hoey, Labour candidate for Vauxhall, and Richard Tracey, Tory candidate for Surbiton, right

## Molyneaux demands Scottish-style deal for Ulster

BY EDWARD GORMAN  
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

JAMES Molyneaux, leader of the Ulster Unionist party, said yesterday that he would vote against an attempt by a Labour government to pursue devolution in Scotland if similar arrangements were not offered to Northern Ireland.

Speaking at a press conference in the bomb-damaged headquarters of the UUP in central Belfast, Mr Molyneaux again ruled out any formal

deals between his party's MPs in the new parliament and either of the two main parties. He offered instead an informal understanding based on his party's known objectives. He said that Ulster Unionists recognised the importance of ensuring that a new government could be formed and that his party would not behave in the reckless manner that it believed the Liberal Democrats were threatening to.

On Scottish devolution, Mr Molyneaux was unequivocal. He would

oppose a Labour Queen's speech containing it unless Northern Ireland was being offered the same arrangements. There was no reason why Northern Ireland should not be treated similarly, especially since the political parties in the province had more than 50 years' experience of operating devolved structures.

Mr Molyneaux added that it would be unfair to deny devolution to Belfast pending cross-party or cross-community agreement on the structures required since, in Scotland, no

such consensus would be achievable or necessary.

Another issue on which his party would vote with an opposition would be on what Mr Molyneaux called "any further surrender of sovereignty" resulting from the Maastricht treaty on European economic and political union. He said that his MPs would oppose as a matter of principle, and whatever the consequences, the implementation of legislation following on from undertakings made at Maastricht.

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**Free enterprise will soon pull Britain out of recession.**

## Party predicts gains

### Lib Dems eye West for key successes

BY SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

AS PADDY Ashdown made a final sweep through the West Country yesterday, Liberal Democrat officials were confident of gaining seats there but were cautious about claiming success in some of the constituencies where the party has a high profile.

Des Wilson, the campaign director, said that about ten Tory-held constituencies in Devon, Cornwall and other pockets of old Liberalism dotted around Britain look the most winnable for the Liberal Democrats tomorrow. Mr Wilson expected the best result for the third party since the second world war. The five-point rise in their poll rating since the start of the campaign puts the Liberal Democrats within sight of the 23 per cent of the vote that the SDP-Liberal Alliance achieved in 1987. In spite of Mr Wilson's optimism, the Liberal Democrats' victories are likely to be balanced by losses of at least two of the 22 seats they held in the last parliament, and the failure to win Labour-held marginals that they have targeted.

The party's most fertile territory for gains from the Conservatives, according to local polls, includes Falmouth and Camborne, where Sebastian Coe is standing for the Tories, North Devon, North Cornwall and South East Cornwall. Hopes are also high in Torbay, Tiverton and St Ives.

The party leadership would be distraught if no more than 15 MPs were returned; mildly depressed with 20; delighted with 25; and delirious with 30-plus.

The indications are that Chris Patten, the chairman of the Conservative party, who had a majority of 1,412 in Bath in 1987, will hold the seat. The Liberal Democrats tend to score well only where their candidates has a strong local record. In Bath their candidate, Don Foster, has been selected recently and comes from Bristol, regarded in Bath as enemy territory.

Liberal Democrat advisers are vaguely uneasy at the prospect of finally wresting Cheltenham from the Conservatives, because such a result could be seen as a racist protest-vote against John Taylor, the Tory candidate, who is black.

The Liberal Democrats are fielding one of their best candidates, Jenny Tonge, a GP, in Richmond and Barnes, but their chances against Jeremy Hanley, the Tory, who had a

majority of 1,766 in 1987, do not look great.

Two seats, Conwy in North Wales and the Isle of Wight, were fairly low down on the target list at the start of the campaign, but have been promoted to the first division of winnable seats. The Liberal Democrats also seem likely to take Hereford.

Liz Lynne, the Liberal Democrat candidate in Rochdale, faces tough competition from Labour after the retirement of Sir Cyril Smith. Eastbourne and Ribbles Valley, both won by the Liberal Democrats at by-elections, are also vulnerable.

Seats in the North that the Liberal Democrats have targeted, including Hazel Grove and Colne Valley, might not swing to them because of the three-way split in the vote. Also in doubt, because of the Labour threat, are two of the seats highest on the party's hit list, Portsmouth South and Stockton South, both formerly held by the Social Democrats.

Mr Wilson relied for his optimism partly on regional polls, showing the Liberal Democrats on 33 per cent in the South West and 28 per cent in the South East, together with polls published by local newspapers putting the party ahead in Bath, Hazel Grove and Falmouth and Camborne.

Although polls in Scotland have been dismal, falling as low as 7 per cent during the campaign, the Liberal Democrats are expecting to retain most if not all of the ten seats they held there in the last parliament. There are question marks over the constituency of Inverness, Nairn and Lochaber, being defended by Sir Russell Johnston, and North East Fife, being defended by Menzies Campbell. However, Scotland's four-way split and a possible surge by the Scottish nationalists, make the result hard to predict.

In Wales, Richard Livsey will be in a three-way tussle to keep a grip on Brecon and Radnor where he had a majority in 1987 of a mere 56.

The third party has a habit of picking up a few odd seats which had not been marked out highly during the campaign, such as Southport in 1987. The seats that could see surprise Liberal Democrat victories include Liverpool Broad Green, Hastings, Twickenham and East London's Bow and Poplar.



## Labour puts faith in civil service

## Kinnock rules out night of long knives

BY ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

ONE of the first acts of a Labour government would be to assure Whitehall's mandarins that the civil service will not be politicised. Nor would there be a great clear out of senior figures who have served the Tories over the past 13 years.

Mr Kinnock has told *The Times*: "I've got very strong confidence in the British civil service system and consequently I won't in No 10 be looking over my shoulder at people who've served the immediate two previous prime ministers. I'm certain that they don't operate on a partisan basis and they produce an efficient service. My only test always of everything is 'does it work?'"

Mr Kinnock said that he could offer "a blueprint for the most beneficial but up-to-date reorganisation of the system of government". But he said that such reforms had to await an improvement in the British economy and that even then they should proceed by consensus. "The last thing I want to inflict on the system is turmoil."

He is, however, determined to proceed swiftly with Labour's promised freedom of information act, which is likely to cause some ructions in Whitehall.

Mr Kinnock is sceptical of the value of extending the "cabinet" system of clusters of political appointees around ministers, advocated in a recent speech to the First Division Association of top civil servants by Bryan Gould. Although he does not regard such questions as being in "no-go areas", his colleagues say that the Labour leader believes such appointments would blur lines of responsibility and that he remains to be convinced of their value.

Copies of Labour's manifesto have been distributed throughout Whitehall during the election. Sir Robin Butler, the cabinet secretary, met the shadow cabinet last November for a discussion and shadow ministers have in recent weeks had private consultations with permanent secre-

aries over how Labour's plans for the structure and organisation of departments could be implemented.

Labour is committed to a new ministry for women, a new ministry of the arts, and cabinet places for a minister of environmental protection, a minister for Europe and a minister for international development. Policy documents have also outlined plans for a minister of state for community care, a minister for science and a minister for children.

In addition, plans for various quangos such as a Greater London authority, regional development agencies in England, a national investment bank, education standards commission, food standards agency and quality commission for local government have been talked through with officials.

In spite of this, colleagues say that Mr Kinnock would be more like Margaret Thatcher than Harold Wilson or Edward Heath in his attitude to Whitehall. "He won't be a great mover of government Lego blocks," a colleague said yesterday. "Fundamentally he accepts the structure that is there."

Like Mrs Thatcher, Mr Kinnock is said to see Whitehall restructuring as a distraction from the implementation of policy. If elected, he plans to take the measure of the system during the first extended session of parliament through to the summer of 1993 before consulting with leading civil servants about ways of improving the efficiency of government.

The return to government of John Major would not leave Whitehall undisturbed. Under the plans outlined during the Conservative election campaign there would be the biggest shake-up of responsibilities for two decades.

Under the Conservatives there would be a new cabinet-level post with overall charge of the citizen's charter, monitoring Whitehall efficiency and reforming the civil service. A new ministry of the

arts and national heritage would take over responsibility for broadcasting from the Home Office and for sport from the education department.

The department of energy would be absorbed into a revamped department of trade and industry which would also take responsibility for small businesses from the employment department. Employment would take over the Home Office's responsibilities for women's issues.

In order to tighten the government's regulatory grip, the Treasury would take over responsibility for overseeing all financial services. The environment department would take on energy efficiency responsibilities from the disappearing energy department and gain greater powers over urban regeneration.

Labour is expected to look at the Conservatives' proposed reforms and might take on some of them.



The right stuff: Guy Hatcher, Natural Law candidate for Epsom and Ewell, demonstrates through a brain-mapping test that he is in the state of "restful alertness" that makes a good politician (Alison Roberts writes). As journalists

giggled at a press conference yesterday, Mr Hatcher's head was hooked up to electroencephalographic equipment borrowed from the Maharishi Vedic University in Iowa and produced blue and yellow brain patterns of tranquillity and orderliness. Politicians who have not mastered the art of yogic flying will produce the red brain graphic of tortured agitation. All 310 candidates of the Natural Law party have undergone the test and had their high quality blue brains passed.

## A few days transform absurd forecast into likely result

## RIDDELL ON THE ELECTION

In two and a half days' time, Neil Kinnock may be prime minister. Just writing that would have seemed absurd for most of his 8 years as Labour leader. But over the past few days the political world and perhaps the public have begun to adjust to the possibility, even likelihood, that Labour will be the largest single party in a hung parliament.

So mesmerised have we all been by April 9, that only now is Labour starting to face up to what it may have to do in office. Labour's leaders show no sense of triumphalism, but rather nervous expectation and apprehension. They cannot quite believe that victory could be so near.

I spent Monday in the Midlands, first with Gordon Brown and then with Tony Blair, and finally at a rally in Birmingham, that they both addressed with Roy Hattersley. Mr Brown and Mr Blair will play important roles in office, at trade and industry and at employment. Neither has any direct experience of a Labour government. They were not elected until 1983. While both have detailed plans as part of the recovery programme, they are not over-confi-

dent. Only Mr Hattersley and John Smith have been in cabinet before, and well over half the likely cabinet have never held even junior office. All know they have to prove themselves. Labour has mainly gained as a result of the recession and public dislike of the Tories after 13 years in office. There have been few signs of active enthusiasm for Labour's programme; the party will have to win support in office for its ideas.

The first test of a Labour government will probably come in the financial markets. The impression I get from Mr Kinnock's advisers is that he is prepared to take tough action to establish credibility. A Labour government would be ready to raise interest rates to see off any speculative attack. And I would not rule out a rapid move to the narrow band of the exchange-rate mechanism.

Forget all talk of Lab-Lib deals or arrangements. If Labour is the largest single party, it would govern

alone. Mr Kinnock is prepared to call Paddy Ashdown's bluff about bringing down a minority government which did not hold formal talks with other parties about a Queen's Speech. Labour leaders believe that Scottish Liberal Democrats would not vote against a Queen's Speech proposing a parliament in Edinburgh. There are already tensions between some of the Scottish Lib Dems and Mr Ashdown, of which Labour is well aware and will not be slow to exploit.

Moreover, recent discussion of Mr Kinnock's plan to broaden the membership of the Plant enquiry into electoral reform has distracted attention from his other shift towards emphasising a consensus programme. Mr Hattersley, heart and soul a party man, emphasised in Birmingham how Labour would not "ride roughshod over our opponents. In government, we shall work for consensus."

In practice, a Queen's Speech from a minority government would emphasise economic recovery, boosting the health service and edu-

cation, and constitutional reform. There would deliberately be a lot of common ground with Liberal proposals. That does not mean that Labour would water down its manifesto but that the programme would be difficult for the Lib Dems to reject.

In office, Labour would have strong cards. And Mr Ashdown's strategy could well rebound, not only if his own party splits but if the electorate punishes the Lib Dems at a second election.

The prospect of Mr Kinnock as prime minister, plus worries over what Labour's plans mean for tax and take-home pay, could still result in a last minute switch to the Tories among waverers and Lib Dem supporters. That is about the Tories' only hope of holding on to office. But there is little sign of that so far. The Tories generally have the look of losers. Kenneth Baker's warnings about immigration and the dangers of a rise of fascism if proportional representation were adopted — "a pact with the devil", he called it — have smelt of desperation. Similarly, Michael Heseltine has gone over the

top in claiming that a Kinnock government would take "Britain's economy on a headlong dive to disaster". It is about as wild as Mr Kinnock's warning that a continuation of Tory government would turn the recession into a slump. There are important differences between both parties' policies but to talk of a choice between disaster and slump is a gross exaggeration.

By contrast, Labour campaigners are almost universally confident. That is partly just the stark contrast with the poor results in 1983 and 1987. But in the Midlands I was struck by how even experienced regional organisers have raised their sights. The party is no longer just expecting to win the Northfield, Selly Oak and Yardley seats in Birmingham. It is talking about capturing Hall Green, Dudley West and Warwickshire North. Labour believes it will win, or at any rate be the biggest single party. Anything less will be a devastating shock.

Peter Riddell

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# Harassed constituency candidates rush on oblivious of the larger picture

To be a candidate in a general election is a weird experience. For three long weeks you are locked up in a tiny world of your own, oblivious to the outside one, utterly obsessed with the shifts and movements and crises of your own constituency. There is little time to read newspapers, except the local ones, and no time at all to watch television, least of all party political broadcasts.

How are the postal and proxy votes coming along? Why is Mrs Jones, a lifelong Tory, now muttering about voting for the Liberal Democrats? Is it really true that we have found strong support in Ellesmere Avenue? Why is The Crown sporting Labour

**Sir Robert Rhodes James, former Tory MP, still relishes the fight as he campaigns for colleagues in the North**

posters? Why has the Battle Bus broken down again? Why didn't the local paper carry that story we gave them about the Labour candidate's gaffe on council spending? Why won't the hospital let me canvass there?

This is the stuff of the candidate's life. Meals are grabbed, usually as pub lunches; oceans of tea and coffee are drunk; the daily programme of visits, walkabouts, answering letters, and sending off the media seems to get more arduous as polling day ap-

proaches. What is going on elsewhere is of no concern to the candidate and his team, contemptuously chucking the mound of literature from central office into the dustbin.

A parliamentary candidate is, in short, the last person you should seek information from about the general picture. He or she does not give a damn about the general picture.

For the first time in more than 15 years, I am not a candidate, so I set out to the North to support friends who are former colleagues, de-

fending difficult seats. For the first time in an election, I have time to read the papers and watch television.

There is one extraordinary phenomenon of a Conservative campaign that I had not previously realised. When I walked into David Sumner's campaign headquarters in Bury South, the ladies were stuffing envelopes with election literature. I could have sworn that they were the same ones I had left in Cambridge, doing the same job, chattering away, gossiping happily, drinking gallons of tea, and alternating between grumbles and great cheerfulness. But I then found them in other constituencies. It

seemed as though we had a special cohort of these splendid people being taken around the country from constituency to constituency.

Modern elections have become startlingly high-tech, with mobile phones, word processors, computers and faxes. Everyone has a Battle Bus (and who, pray, coined that idiotic description of a tired old van, a Thirties lorry, or a Range-Rover?). It all seems very professional compared with my first experiences in the distant Seventies, but the odd thing is that the essentials remain.

People matter. They have to be found for a huge variety of tasks, from envelope-stuffing to canvassing, writing and

distributing leaflets, monitoring the enemy ("Did she really say she supports the FLO? Check it out, urgently") and picking up gossip in pubs (far more important and useful than the political scientists seem to realise). As Alan Herbert remarked, it never ceased to amaze him that so many people would take so much of their time and energy to get someone else into Parliament.

But what was The Other Lot doing? As far as we could see, nothing at all. Where were their canvass teams? In Wallasey, we saw a group of Liberal Democrats working a shopping street, without much joy, as far as we

could see, from people whose only interest was in getting home. It was all very cheering.

Thus, for all the high-tech and glossy election addresses, with pretty colour photographs of the candidate and his/her family and dogs, an English campaign is refreshingly old-fashioned, warm and human. I found canvassing for other people far more enjoyable than canvassing for myself.

I was always treated with immense courtesy and friendliness, and not least by a gorgeously pretty young lady in a diminutive bathrobe who, alas, was a schoolteacher active in the National Union of Teachers and Lab-

our. My former Cambridge constituents tend to be reluctant about their voting intentions; not so in the North.

The whole experience reminded me vividly of 1970, when the opinion polls were grim but the canvass returns (which we did not believe then) were excellent, and proved to be the true guide. For what it is worth, my five-day foray revealed that the Conservative vote was holding up strongly in every constituency and it was exhilarating to see the Tory army on the march again. The candidates were surviving, too. They and their families are counting the days and hours to April 9. I know how they feel.

Constituency profiles: Jobs stay a big concern with voters whether in the towns or in the countryside

## Gummer pleads with disaffected farmers not to forsake Tories

BY JOHN YOUNG

A HELICOPTER brought John Gummer, the agriculture minister, to Devon yesterday to warn disaffected farmers not to jeopardise their own best interest by dropping their traditional allegiance to the Conservative party and to Emma Nicholson, defending the seat.

Pouring scorn on the European federalist sympathies of the Lib Dems, who are widely expected to make big gains in the South-West, Mr Gummer suggested that anyone who voted for them was voting for the proposals by Raymond MacSharry, the EC agriculture commissioner, to bankrupt British farming by switching resources to southern Europe.

"We are the only party that backs the countryside," he told a polite but sceptical audience of farmers and their families at the Big Sheep, a combined farm and theme park just outside Bideford. To a background of baas and bleats, he described Labour as a party of townies who did not know the first thing about agriculture, and the Liberal Democrats as caring nothing for British interests in their headlong enthusiasm for European integration.

Mr Gummer's strictures may not be enough. Miss Nicholson's majority of just under 6,500 at Devon West and Torridge is considered to be seriously at risk, and a big factor in her possible downfall is the plight of farming.

According to Mike Turner, the local Conservative chairman and owner of the Big Sheep, farmers account for about 15 per cent of the constituency's electorate, more than seven times the

proportion nationally. At least another 15 per cent work in ancillary industries or are otherwise dependent on agriculture.

But these are hard times, and the future of the small family farm in particular is under greater threat than at any time since before the war. To that can be added discontent at the declining quality of

DEVELOPMENT

1987 result: Miss E H Nicholson (C) 29,484 (50.3%); J P A Burnett (L/AI) 23,016 (39.2%); D G Brenton (Lab) 4,990 (8.5%); F Williamson (Grn) 1,168 (2.0%). Conservative majority: 6,468 (11.0%).



urban life, with the loss of local employment, schools, shops, public transport and affordable housing.

The economic situation has compounded their difficulties. Tens of thousands of jobs have disappeared in agriculture and in mining; there are now only about 178,000 full-time farmers, compared with three or four times that number a generation ago.

Farm incomes are at their lowest level for ten years, and

the rural development commission estimates that a further 100,000 jobs could disappear in the next ten years.

Between 1984 and 1990, a total of 30,000 jobs were lost in the rural coalfields of the East Midlands. But country people have far less choice of alternative employment than their urban counterparts, and less opportunity for retraining. Small businesses, many established with grants in redundant farm buildings, some by farmers seeking to diversify, have been hard hit by the combined effect of recession and the uniform business rate.

Above and beyond that is the antipathy felt to "newcomers", commuters and weekend second-home owners who have moved into villages and forced property prices up far beyond the means of local first-time buyers. Villages where young people can no longer find a place to live are becoming all too common.

Country people on the whole are unlikely to believe that either Labour or the Liberal Democrats would take a more sympathetic view of their difficulties. But the malaise that is afflicting so many aspects of country life could spring some nasty surprises on the Conservatives at the polls.



Recruiting drive: Jackie Ballard greeting a voter in her effort to overturn a 10,000 Tory majority in Taunton

## Rasputin's double succumbs to Paddy factor

BY BILL FROST

WITH a friend like that, who needed enemies, Jackie Ballard, the Liberal Democrat candidate for Taunton, would have been perfectly entitled to ask, A tall, cadaverous and bearded political

admirer was parading up and down the shopping precinct scaring the voters with bizarre election pledges and warnings of Armageddon. "Oh, not do something quick," Ms Ballard hissed. By now, the man, who could have been Rasputin's identical twin, had transferred his attention from a small child to an elderly woman. Waving a Lib Dem placard frantically, he backed the terrified pensioner against a litter bin and hectoring her mercilessly. "You shouldn't be talking on my behalf really," Ms Ballard said. The mild rebuke went unnoticed as the man

sarred into the middle distance and warned shoppers about meltdown at Hinkley Point nuclear power station.

Earlier, Ms Ballard found herself the victim of vindictive ruminants at the town's livestock market, treading in something dreadful. Bearded men and other hazards apart, the campaign is going well for Ms Ballard. So well in fact, that the Tories in Taunton, defending a majority last time of 10,380, have said the result appears to be "neck and neck".

On the Halcro council estate, where every home comes with a rentweller or snarling alsatian, former Labour supporters are coming over to Ms Ballard in droves. "I believe in the Labour, but they've no chance here in Taunton," Marlene Smith said. "Your policies make a lot of sense, so, to keep the Tories out, you can count on

us." Her husband nodded vigorously. Back on the street, Ms Ballard leapt smartly out of the path of a battered car and ignored a shouted insult. "You can't win them all," she laughed nervously as the drizzle became a downpour.

Still, there was consolation on the next doorstep. Pamela Hogan, once a staunch Tory, said: "I've just become so disillusioned. All those promises and we end up with recession and poll tax. I won't forgive them for that, nor will thousands of others here in Taunton." Some of the farmers are

deserting the Tories too. Andy Harding, aged 41, has given up rearing cattle and become an auctioneer's assistant at the livestock market. "I've put my farm up for sale because of the recession they caused. I've got to sell if I'm to pay off my debts."

Colin Hutchings, a sheep farmer, had lost faith in the Conservatives too. "They got us into this slump but they can't get us out. It's time someone else had a chance. Couldn't be any worse," he said.

In the far western corner of the constituency, on Exmoor, another spectacular conversion has been achieved. Rohaise Thomas-Everard, landowner and breeder of Arab horses, has parted company with the Conservatives and started campaigning for the Liberal Democrats. Such is her dedication to her new cause that she has posed rail-

er stiffly for pictures with Ms Ballard which now feature on the front of a Liberal Democrat newsletter.

Ms Ballard attributed much of her apparent success in Taunton to the "Paddy factor". "Yeovil is our neighbouring constituency and Paddy Ashdown has been very high profile in Somerset for years," she said. "Traditionally the South-West used to be strongly Liberal, and now the message is getting across: the voters want a change and the old two-party loyalties have gone."

David Nicholson, the Tory candidate, said that he was not surprised that the Liberal Democrats were feeling reasonably encouraged. "There's no doubt they're better organised than five years ago and have worked hard in preparation. I don't feel under threat but I'm not complacent either."

## Mandelson adopts a company image

BY ALAN HAMILTON

THE head of one of the few flourishing factories in the industrial wasteland of Hartlepool outlines how his firm is coping with the recession. Across the boardroom table, the man in the business suit, white shirt and striped tie looks and sounds like one of his middle managers.

He is Peter Mandelson, the Labour candidate, a good soldier of the New Model Party. They don't get many Oxford philosophy, politics and economics graduates, southerners or former party communications directors as candidates in the North-east.

Mr Mandelson asks the boss if he has ever called on

the services of his local MP. "Well, we got Ted to open our extension," he says after some thought. Ted Leadbitter, who has retired after 40 years as councillor and MP, was much respected, even by local Tories.

On the shop floor amid clattering machinery — all German — Mr Mandelson enthuses: "This is the model of what I want in Hartlepool, competitive, highly customised and with a big investment in technology." Hartlepool certainly needs jobs. Ten thousand were lost between 1980 and 1985 and 2,000 in the past two years. Mr Mandelson links unemployment to rising crime. "Jobs and police are the answer here, not social workers and softer sentences."

The question is whether an Oxford graduate is the answer here. The Tory camp says that when it put up a management consultant from Surrey in 1987, the party lost by 7,289, but when it fielded a local man in 1993 it lost only by 3,090. Its contender this time is Graham Robb, aged 28, a local public relations consultant.

Mr Mandelson has an important promise up his sleeve. Labour, he says, will not implement the Taylor committee report on making football grounds all-seater. If Hartlepool FC, struggling up the Third Division, were forced to comply, it would almost certainly join the town's business casualties.

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12/1...22 SEATS 10/1...26 SEATS 16/1...30 SEATS

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## Man with a ladder makes Fintry's Tories see red

ON THE evidence of the posters plastered over Fintry, a village on the upper reaches of the Endrick valley, its inhabitants were praying last night for a new, socialist dawn. Not a single Conservative poster could be found: the place was a sea of red.

Could this whole village, with its white-washed cottages, hanging baskets, horse boxes and Mercedes parked in the main street, really have defected to Labour? Surely someone, somewhere must vote Tory. If not, then it was a bad omen for Michael Forsyth, the Scottish minister of state, who is defending his Stirling seat, fighting to retain, and perhaps improve on, his majority of 548, the second smallest in Scotland.

Further investigation was required. A man outside the village shop gave a knowing laugh. Then a teenage girl explained. On Sunday night one of the locals had emerged from the inn after several refreshments. Feeling in the mood for a wheeze, he had apparently gone home, fetched a ladder and proceeded, giggling, to remove all the Tory posters from every lamp, garden gate, tree and telegraph pole in the village. Trouble was, someone tipped off the local Con-

servative "high heid yin", who trailed him round Fintry in her car, her outrage increasing with every poster that fluttered to the ground.

The police were told and yesterday a spokesman said the matter was being investigated. Apparently, the police had arrived and asked a girl if she had seen a man with a ladder. She said she didn't know anyone who drove a Lada in Fintry. It is that kind of village.

Fourteen miles away, on the Raploch housing estate in Stirling, there was a similar dearth of Tory posters, but for rather different reasons. "The Raploch" has one of the worst reputations for deprivation and all the ills that that condition brings, in central Scotland. John McDonald was outside his council flat exercising Tyson, his dog. "Are you the poll tax man?" he asked. Mr McDonald, on income support, said that many people on the Raploch had not

paid their poll tax. The poll tax might be an old issue among most of the electorate, but not on the Raploch, a grey, treeless huddle of ageing council houses beneath Stirling Castle. Mr McDonald said that he had paid the first year, paid half his bill the second year and nothing this year. The upshot, a familiar tale on the estate, was that his debt was being reduced forcibly by about £2 a week off his benefit.

"Michael Forsyth the man might be all right, but he is just a yes-man for Maggie," he said. But Margaret Thatcher was long gone. "Maggie is still the issue in Stirling. She gets the blame for the poll tax and all that is bad about the Tories. You have to pay to put clothes and shoes on your bairns, then they take the money back in poll tax. This estate is 95 per cent Labour and maybe 5 per cent SNP," Mr McDonald added. "You won't find any Tories here."

Huge sums of public and private money are being spent on Stirling, its riverfront and, particularly, its historic centre that overlooks the Raploch before the rather better view of the Trossachs to the north. On the estate they are not impressed. One man said: "People here live on the bare necessities. They are scared to leave their houses in case they lose what little they have got. Then they are spending millions up there," he said pointing towards the castle.

Mr Forsyth's main threat comes from Kate Phillips, the Labour candidate. She is convinced that Mr Forsyth's style of conviction politics and his unpopularity with the opposition parties generally will encourage tactical voting to get rid of him.

There is no doubting Mr Forsyth's strong following in the largely rural constituency, however. Even the grumbling farmers, many of whom have threatened to give the Tories a fright, are expected to "come to mummy" tomorrow. Mr Forsyth is also acknowledged to be an excellent constituency man and, more important for tomorrow's result, the resurgence of the nationalists could eat into Labour's vote.

Further west, in villages such as Kilmarnock, Gargunnock, Kerfoot, Kippen and Fintry, the Tory vote strengthens, pranksters notwithstanding. If the election could be won on the size of posters, Michael Forsyth would have a landslide victory. Mrs Thatcher, for instance, had a rapturous welcome in Kilmarnock the other day.

In the centre of Stirling yesterday, Mr Forsyth was upbeat, confident and clearly well liked. While he chatted to passers-by an altercation developed between the Labour and SNP camps on the other side of the street. A Labour campaigner started yelling at the nationalists, decrying Gerry Fisher, the candidate.

The man would not shut up despite the pleas of his colleagues. What with the run-up to the election, it has been a long campaign. Mr Fisher had just finished telling everyone to vote SNP for no nuclear weapons, no poll tax, no nuclear waste and, obscurely, no phoney double-glazing salesmen. He could stand the man's interruptions no longer. Mr Fisher picked up a megaphone and, to cheers from the crowds, screamed: "Be quiet or, alternatively, keep your big fat mouth shut!"

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## Property market

## House prices most at risk in South-East

BY ANATOLE KALETSKY, ECONOMICS EDITOR

A FURTHER sharp drop in house prices seems likely in London and the South-East if Labour wins the election, but the outlook for housing in the rest of the country may depend less on tomorrow's poll than on the state elections held in Germany last Sunday.

Most of the predictions about a house-price "meltdown" after a Labour victory are driven by fears of high interest rates, rather than high taxes, under Labour. But, while Labour's plans for punitive taxes on the rich have been spelled out, it is pure guesswork whether interest rates would rise or fall if John Smith moved into 11 Downing Street.

The prospects for British interest rates will depend mainly on the decisions made in Frankfurt by the Bundesbank. The chances are that interest rates will not start to fall at least until the autumn. But given the political uncertainty in Germany, France and Italy, there seems no reason why Britain should have to increase its premium over German rates just because it joins the club of European nations without a clear majority government.

If interest rates are taken out of the picture, as more or less outside Britain's control, the potential impact of a Labour government on the housing market can be reduced to two opposing forces.

On one hand there will be sharp reductions in the disposable incomes of affluent professionals and managers. These are bound to hit the entire property market in London and the South-East, as well as undermining the value of high-priced properties and second homes in the rest of the country. The average new mortgage in London

is £60,000 and the average income of borrowers is £27,000. That compares with a national average mortgage of £44,000 and an average income of £21,000. More striking still is the contrast between the number of borrowers with incomes of over £40,000 — 15 per cent in London against a national average of only 6 per cent. Somebody earning £40,000 would lose £1,700 of disposable income under Labour's tax proposals, equivalent to the cost of servicing a £20,000 mortgage.

The idea that the impact of such large losses in income will be confined to the high-priced properties seems unrealistic. When prices fall in one part of the market, the effect is bound to trickle down.

Fortunately, there may be an opposite force pushing from the bottom of the market. A Labour government could give a boost to first-time buyers. This should be due less to Labour's explicit income redistribution than to the general macroeconomic impact of its policies.

Most of Labour's income redistribution will go into pensions, which will obviously do nothing for first-time buyers. However, most independent analyses of Labour's policies suggest that it would accelerate economic growth and reduce unemployment.

Since fear of unemployment and the general sluggishness of the economy is probably a bigger factor in holding back the housing market than either interest rates or taxes, a Labour government would benefit the market if the economic models turned out to be right. The models also suggest that wages would grow faster under Labour. If true, this could give housing a vital boost.

	Average house price £	Average advance £	Average income of borrowers £	% loans to first time buyers
Northern	48,388	34,111	17,480	38
Yorkshire & Humber	52,943	37,303	18,083	42
East Midlands	57,277	40,617	19,037	48
East Anglia	63,760	43,189	20,382	45
Greater London	88,858	60,032	27,005	54
South East (excl GL)	79,765	52,955	23,525	42
South West	66,322	44,884	20,850	43
West Midlands	60,578	41,428	19,487	43
North West	55,048	38,595	19,603	46
Wales	51,414	36,487	18,306	60
Scotland	48,910	35,831	18,587	40
Northern Ireland	37,197	27,657	17,125	58
United Kingdom	63,928	43,958	20,696	45

Source: The Building Societies Association and Department of the Environment

## What the experts predict after poll

Rachel Kelly finds evidence that a Tory victory would be the best outcome for a recovery in the property market

## Housing analyst

John Wrigglesworth, UBS Phillips and Drew

"If the Tories win the election, we expect a reduction in base rates by at least 1 per cent, which will be the key to recovery. But fears of unemployment will mean that house prices will not start recovering until the middle of the year after falls of 4 to 5 per cent."

"Labour's tax plans are bad news. People in the higher income bracket will put off buying, so there will be a disabling effect at the top end. But only about 10 per cent of mortgage borrowers are top-rate taxpayers and claims that the market will collapse are exaggerated."

"Our forecast is that interest rates will rise 0.5 per cent if Labour is elected. As a result, prices could easily fall by another 5 per cent this year but there could still be a recovery next year. If the City reacts badly and interest rates rise 2 or more per cent it will be a devastating blow."

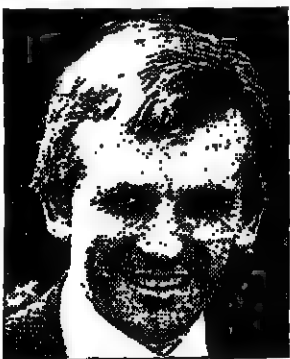
## Estate agent

Patrick Ramsey, senior partner, Knight Frank and Rutley

"If the Tories win, there will be an initial surge of activity from vendors and purchasers who have been holding back until after the election. This will be followed by a steady market recovery."

"There is nothing to stop prices falling by 10 per cent under a Labour government."

## Building industry



David Holliday, president of the Housebuilders Federation

"Eighty per cent of people are going to be better off under the Labour tax regime. The bottom end of the market will therefore move forward again quite quickly. The top end of the market will be badly hit."

## Building society manager

David Blake, group head of corporate affairs manager, Woolwich building society

"A Tory win would immediately remove people's uncertainty on their personal finances. The housing market should begin to show signs of recovery shortly after the election."

"Labour's tax plans would cause a redistribution of income that would do little to stimulate demand at the lower and mid sections of the market while reducing demand at the upper end. Overall this would result in weaker market activity than under the Tories."



Housing assault: Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, claimed yesterday that Labour would have to put up interest rates

## Heseltine leads onslaught on Labour economic plans

BY ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

LABOUR'S policies would cut take-home pay and push up interest and mortgage rates, Michael Heseltine said yesterday. "Labour would stop home buyers trading up, frustrate the ambitions of first-time buyers and slash consumer spending through much higher mortgage payments."

"A Kinnock government would have to put up interest rates because the financial markets don't trust Labour. On average, a family's mortgage would go up by £47 a month. And at the same time the value of their home would fall. That means less money in people's pockets, which means less spending. That means less demand for industry's products, which means less work for industry and job losses — higher unemployment under Labour."

Mr Heseltine's assault was part of a Conservative effort to brand Labour as a party that would wreck Britain's hopes of coming out of recession. He quoted a report from the National Council of Building Material Producers which predicted that a Labour victory and the associated increases in taxation would

"hold back house price stabilisation" and deter first-time buyers.

He added: "Behind this statement lay a powerful and damaging analysis of the impact of Labour's economic plans on the housing and construction markets. In 1993, the construction industry's expert panel expects 160,000 private housing completions under a re-elected Conservative government as compared to only 100,000 under Labour."

"Turning to housing starts: under a Conservative government the construction industry expects 155,000 starts in 1993, compared to just 100,000 under Labour. The devastating result would be that over 20,000 fewer houses would be built in 1992 under a Labour government and well over 40,000 fewer homes would be built in 1993. Overall, the industry itself predicts that Labour's policies would cost the construction industry £4 billion and up to 100,000 jobs."

Mr Heseltine went hell for leather after his party's opponents, insisting: "A Kinnock government would take Britain's economy on a headlong

dive to disaster. Labour's policies would devastate the housing market and shove up interest rates, throttling the recovery."

John Major accentuated the positive, hailing a Dun and Bradstreet survey which showed business confidence rising and quoting poll evidence that four out of five businesses believed the economy would improve if the Tories were re-elected. Mr Major told the party's daily news conference in London: "The economic circumstances are right and recovery is on the way."

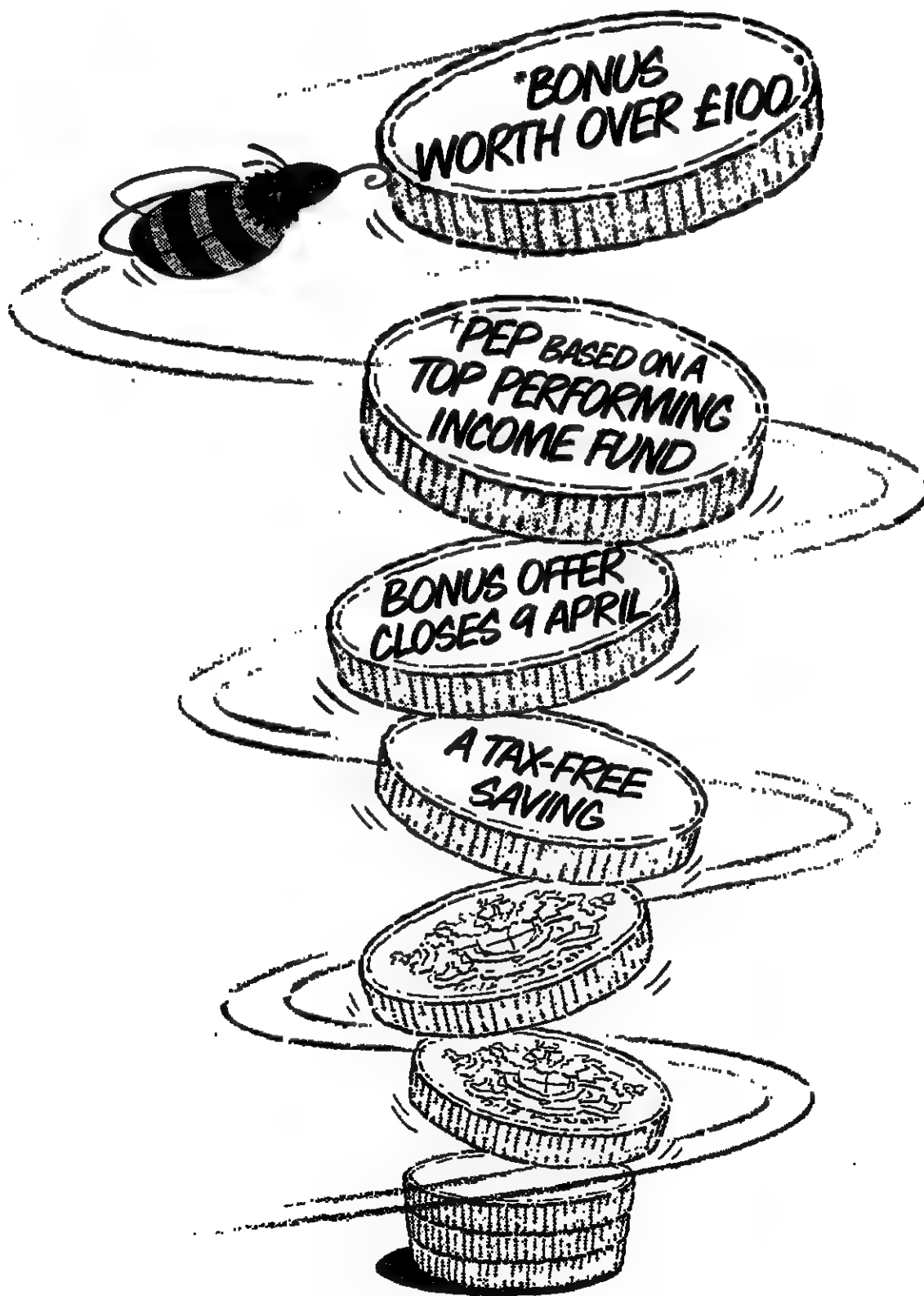
Norman Lamont, Chancellor of the Exchequer, repeated the charge that Labour's manifesto spending plans were unaffordable without swinging tax increases. The manifesto plans, he said, would cost the equivalent of 12.5p on the basic rate of income tax. "Labour would bring high taxes for everyone. High taxes," he added, "would stifle incentives, destroy confidence and kill the recovery stone dead."

Mr Major concluded: "The return of a Conservative government this Thursday is essential for recovery."

\*PEP— N&P UK Income Fund— First place in the Mirocopol Unit Trust UK Equity Income sector for 1991 for Ten Year Performance to end 1991. Source: Mirocopol offer to bid net income reinvested, 11/23/1/92. N&P UK Income Fund (formerly Key Income Fund). The levels and bases of taxation can change and the value of tax relief depends on individual circumstances. The Society is an appointed representative of N&P Life Assurance Ltd and N&P Unit Trust Management Ltd, which are regulated in the conduct of investment business by SIB. Consequently, we can only advise upon the life assurance and pension products of N&P Life and the unit trust and PEP products of N&P Unit Trust Management Ltd. THE VALUE OF UNITS AND THE INCOME FROM THEM CAN GO DOWN AS WELL AS UP AND THE INVESTOR MAY NOT GET BACK THE AMOUNT INVESTED. PAST PERFORMANCE IS NOT NECESSARILY A GUIDE TO FUTURE PERFORMANCE.

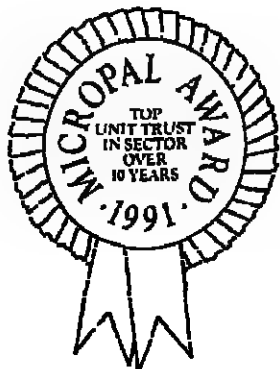
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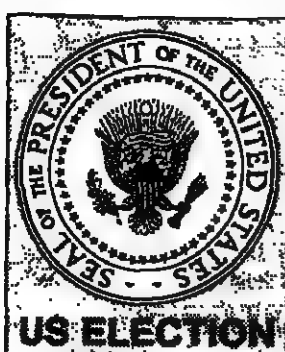


# Clinton banks on New Yorkers to seal nomination

FROM PETER STOTHARD, US EDITOR, IN NEW YORK

AMERICAN Democrat leaders watched anxiously yesterday for the first results from the New York, Wisconsin and Kansas primaries. Wins for Bill Clinton would mean a clear road to the presidential nomination for a candidate who many think unelectable. Any stumblings by the front-runner, especially in New York, could open the way for new candidates to enter the race. But decisions on how and when would have to be made fast.

Early exit polls showed Mr Clinton leading in all three states but with Paul Tsongas, whose name was on the ballots even though he did not campaign, scoring heavily among Jewish voters in New York. Pollsters predicted that, with black votes following Jesse Jackson's lead into the Jer-



ry Brown camp, the result could be close.

In the Clinton camp the view was that, with more than half the necessary delegates won even before New York, the victory was already theirs. Only a "maximum scandal" could take it away from them, one adviser said. The cam-

paign in New York, where 244 delegates were at stake, was the most important for a month. But, although it was fun for New Yorkers to see Mr Clinton and Mr Brown humiliated by the media, the forecast turnout was still low. Pundits argued that this could be used as an additional reason to pull Mr Tsongas out of retirement or to draft a senior figure who had not fought in the primaries.

It would be hard, however, for those perennial non-candidates, Senators Lloyd Bentsen and Al Gore, Congressman Richard Gephardt and Mario Cuomo, the New York governor, to get their names on the remaining ballots. Although with goodwill and a good legal team anything may be possible, even though the filing deadlines have past.

It would be still harder to explain to the American people why, in this year of the outsider, when professional politicians are as popular as child-molesters, the people's primary choice had to be supplanted by someone who chose not to submit himself to the voters' scrutiny.

"Amen to that," said a young Italian-American after voting in Greenwich Village yesterday. He said he had voted for Mr Brown but was sure that neither of the choices on offer could beat George Bush in November. Many influential Republicans are not so sure about that. Using a rule-of-thumb that two-thirds of dissatisfied voters vote against the incumbent president and three-quarters of satisfied voters vote for him, Mr Bush is not safe. Some two-thirds of the electorate think that the country is heading in the wrong direction — the figure that probably matters more and explains more than any other.

Mr Brown appealed to the strong sense in America this year that the whole system is rotten and needs rebuilding. His final campaign call in Brooklyn on Monday night was: "Take it back, America, take it back." Fewer agreed with his solutions than with his analysis. While supporters waited for his appearance at rallies they listened to Sixties poets and talked about the newly opened "old-style" baseball stadium in Baltimore where fans can pretend that the Fifties never finished.

Mr Clinton finished his final appeal around the message that he had given "a lifetime of commitment and service". His aim was to assure voters that the adulterous draft-dodger with an extremist wife is a parody created by the tabloid press; and that "the real Bill Clinton" is the man to win back the White House for the Democrats.

Latest details, page 1  
Verse and worse, page 16

## US halts aid to Peru and recalls official mission

FROM JAMIE DETTMER IN WASHINGTON AND CORINNE SCHMIDT IN LIMA

AMERICA has suspended an aid programme worth more than \$250 million (£143 million) to Peru and denounced President Fujimori's seizure of power as a "regrettable step backwards" for democracy in the region.

"The United States calls for the full and immediate restoration of constitutional democracy, which must include immediate freedom for those detained," Richard Boucher, a State Department spokesman, said.

As a further sign of anger, an American diplomatic mission that arrived in Lima only hours after the coup was recalled yesterday. Argentina also offered asylum to Alan Garcia, the former president, yesterday.

In an emergency meeting, the permanent council of the 34-nation Organisation of American States decided to call a meeting of Latin American foreign ministers "in a matter of days" for a discussion on what further measures can be taken against President Fujimori. State Department officials are particularly concerned that the presidential coup cripples American efforts to combat the drug trade in Peru, the world's largest producer of the coca leaf, the raw material for cocaine.

Police armed with guns, clubs and tear gas stopped an attempt by the Peruvian Congress to meet in defiance of President Fujimori on Monday. Lima was mainly calm yesterday and military vehicles had been withdrawn from most of the streets. But

tanks, armoured personnel carriers, and soldiers still stood guard outside Congress, the Palace of Justice, and other judicial buildings.

The presidents of both houses of congress were under house arrest. A Peruvian journalist, Gustavo Gorriti, correspondent of the Spanish daily *El Pais* and one of Peru's foremost experts on political violence, also remained in government custody after his arrest. The military command said that Señor Gorriti had been arrested with classified defence documents.

On Monday evening, members of the Peruvian congress had tried to meet at the offices of the Peruvian Bar Association. Their goal, said conservative senator, Manuel Moreyra, was "to go into session and declare the presidency vacant". Under Peru's democratic constitution, written and approved at the end of a military dictatorship in 1979, congress can accuse the president of sedition or moral incapacity and vote him out of office.

One radio station has been closed down, and Luis Casas, a journalist from *Si*, a weekly, said his publication had been shut and its files taken. Desperation may have helped convince most people to accept the coup. More than 90 per cent in Lima have no steady job. The legal minimum monthly wage is the equivalent of \$75, but the cost of living rivals America. In addition to political violence by Shining Path guerrillas, common crime has shot up.



Business and pleasure: at the autumn fashion show in New York, a model, left, provides a feminine parody of "power-dressing". She wears a navy pinstripe ribbed wool jersey blend

three-piece suit with bustier and skirt to calf-length, over a long-sleeved white blouse, from Gordon Henderson's collection. From the Perry Ellis collection, also at the New York au-



tumn fashion show, a stylishly primitive look: the model wears a revealingly cut leopard print halter-neck top and a short skirt decorated with long fringes.

## Gloom in Arab capitals deepens as protests greet UN envoy in Libya

FROM MARIE COLVIN IN TRIPOLI AND RICHARD BEESTON IN CAIRO

AS ARAB League foreign ministers met in Cairo yesterday in search of a face-saving solution for Libya over the Lockerbie confrontation, Vladimir Petrovsky, the United Nations envoy, was forced by six-in students to halt in his official car about 100 yards from his Tripoli hotel.

He sat expressionless in the car as about 100 students, blocking the drive of al-Mahari hotel, looking out over Tripoli harbour, shouted: "The UN is finished," and some anti-American slogans. His police motorcycle escort waited 15 minutes before moving to break up the youths. Mr Petrovsky and his aides were ushered inside as several hundred other students, chanting and waving placards, marched up the corridor. Soldiers, perhaps fearing a repetition of last week's violence when the Venezuelan embassy was sacked and burnt, fired off rounds of tear

gas as the excited youths jostled forward.

Foreign ministers from seven Arab League countries gathered at the organisation's headquarters in Cairo, suspected of placing no in an apparently doomed effort to find a compromise. None held out much hope of a breakthrough at this late stage, particularly after the demonstration in Tripoli.

Amr Moussa, the Egyptian foreign minister, said: "There are many proposals under discussion, but they all fall within the framework of security council resolutions. The aim of the (Arab League) committee is to contain the situation, confirm the Arab position opposing terrorism, solve the problem in the framework of international sovereignty and provide a solution which all parties will agree to."

The Tripoli demonstration appeared to be an attempt to show that Libyans stand with

Colonel Muammar Gaddafi in his anger at the UN decision last week to impose arms, air and diplomatic sanctions on Libya unless two Libyans, suspected of placing a bomb aboard the PanAm jet that exploded over Lockerbie, were handed over for trial.

Surrounded by Libyan and Russian bodyguards as he entered the hotel's marble lobby, Mr Petrovsky could say only that he planned to stay until tomorrow. Russian diplomats said he hoped to meet Colonel Gaddafi.

Libyan police and soldiers cordoned off the streets behind the hotel for the remainder of the day. For the UN envoy it was a reminder of how difficult a mission he faces as he attempts to seek a compromise with the Libyan leader to head off the sanctions, scheduled to go into effect next Wednesday. Earlier, Mr Petrovsky had

remained optimistic. "I deeply believe that even at this stage there is still an opportunity to overcome the crisis and find a solution through the security council," he said.

But there is little sign that Colonel Gaddafi is in any mood to hand over the two suspects, both Libyan intelligence agents. He has been silent about Mr Petrovsky's visit and Libyan newspapers ignored his arrival.

Libyans are nervous that sanctions will make life far more difficult and hope that some solution can be found. "What do you think? Can the Soviets help us? A Libyan engineer said over coffee in Green Square at the centre of Tripoli. "All we want to do is live in peace and get on with our own business; we want nothing to do with politics."

Marie Colvin is on the staff of *The Sunday Times*.

## Malawi is asked to free trade unionist

London: Britain yesterday called for the immediate release of the human rights crusader and South African union chief, Chakufwa Chihana, who was arrested in Malawi on Monday.

The Foreign Office yesterday raised the matter with Malawi's High Commissioner in London, and is likely to issue a demarche with European Community partners.

"We had forewarned the Malawi authorities prior to his return that we expected him to be treated properly," the Foreign Office said.

Mr Chihana, aged 52, the secretary-general of the Southern African Trade Union Co-ordination Council, has been critical of Dr Hastings Banda's government and its human rights record. He was detained by police on arrival in Lilongwe from Johannesburg.

## Links agreed

Abidjan: Ivory Coast and South Africa are to establish diplomatic ties at ambassadorial level. Ivory Coast is the first black African nation to accord Pretoria full diplomatic recognition since President de Klerk began scrapping apartheid laws. (Reuters)

## Premier named

Bangkok: General Suchinda Kraprayoon, Thailand's supreme military commander, was named as prime minister, a document issued by the palace said. Crowds gathered to protest against the appointment of a non-elected prime minister. (Reuters)

## Flight planned

Peking: China plans to launch a manned spacecraft by the year 2000, the New China News Agency said. Peking hopes to develop a space station to serve as an orbital laboratory as well as a mission control centre for manned flights. (Reuters)

## Official injured

Hong Kong: A man injured two police officers, a government official and a contract worker with a meat cleaver as the government tried to evict his family and other residents from Hong Kong's Walled City ahead of the demolition of the lawless enclave. (AFP)

## Coin minted

Sydney: Australia has launched the kookaburra, a 2.2lb silver coin, delayed twice to build up enough stocks to meet an expected flood of orders. The coin, named after the Australian kingfisher, will be worth about \$83.73. (Reuters)

## Kiev sent aid

Taipei: Taiwan's medical aid to Ukraine includes 100,000 extra-large condoms, state television said. The "American and European-size" condoms are 4in longer than Taiwanese condoms. The aid, worth £18,850, was flown directly to Kiev. (Reuters)

## PEOPLE

### Boesky sues for alimony

Ivan Boesky, the Wall Street speculator who served two years in prison for insider trading, is suing his wife for \$1 million a year (£571,000) in alimony, the *New York Post* reported. The case was filed in civil court last month asking \$20,000 a week for interim financial support for Boesky, the paper said. Seema Boesky sued earlier this year to end the couple's 30-year marriage.

The car maker John DeLorean and Howard Weitzman, the man who defended him in his drugs trial ten years ago, have reached a friendly settlement over fees the lawyer claimed that he was owed.

The American vice-president Dan Quayle will be among guests attending a ceremony in Tokyo next month to mark the 20th anniversary of Okinawa's reversion from the United States to Japan.

Mother Teresa has told Pete Wilson, the governor of California, that Jesus would have forgiven a convicted killer who is scheduled for execution this month, and suggested that he do the same. Robert Alton Harris is due to die in the gas chamber on April 21 for murdering two teenagers.

## Mines litter road to peace in Cambodian hinterland

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN RUNDAS, CAMBODIA

TWO uniformed men were standing on a road planted thick with landmines. One officer bowed slightly, extended his arm and said to the other: "After you." The second insisted: "No, please, after you." The scene was like an old music hall routine.

Deserted Rundas is a strange venue for farce. The players were unusual too, a Khmer Rouge general and a colonel in the Phnom Penh regime's army, bitter foes now trying tentatively to work

together in harmony. They had just shaken hands in this frontline village on Highway 12 in central Kompong Thom province, where continued fighting has delayed the first deployment of troops of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia, slowing implementation of a UN peace plan.

The Khmer Rouge had attacked Rundas and planted the mines, but had been driven out. Now Phnom Penh troops were trying to de-mine

this key road. Almost every time they exploded one of the Chinese-made devices the Khmer Rouge began shelling from surrounding forests.

Brigadier General Chu Chin, a commander in the Khmer Rouge 616 division, was accompanying a small UN reconnaissance party to see whether a company of 195 Indonesian troops now in the provincial capital, 22 miles to the south, could be deployed to separate the two forces. Clearly, with no meaningful ceasefire in effect, no deployment was yet possible.

Colonel Kol Vay, the Phnom Penh commander here, told the Khmer Rouge general: "The mines were planted by people on your side. Please walk in front of me and show me where they are." The general replied: "They were placed by another of our division, the 802nd. I don't know where they put them, so I would rather not walk ahead. After you."

Colonel Kol Vay said later: "The Khmer Rouge killed ten of my family members and this is the first time I shook hands with one of them. But we are all Cambodian brothers, and I think we can work together." He said that, without interference, the road to Preah Vihear province, now cut off, could be cleared in ten days. If the Khmer Rouge continued to shell, or to plant new mines, it could take three months.



Mandela: allegations a "rehash of gossip"

### Link with murder is denied

Johannesburg: Winnie Mandela yesterday rejected allegations that she was involved in the murder of a prominent Soweto doctor three years ago as a "rehash of gossip" aimed at harming her and the African National Congress (Gavin Bell writes).

She said similar insinuations were dismissed by the Supreme Court in Johannesburg during her trial on kidnap and serious assault charges last year. Noting that her appeal against a six-year prison sentence was pending, she said the sub-judice rule had been ignored to her prejudice.

Saint became sinner  
L&T section, page 5

## Iran embraces Thatcher's ideas on economic reform

Tehran's revived stock exchange is a symbol of the revolution sweeping financial life under a pragmatic government, Christopher Walker writes

THATCHERISM may be dead in Britain, but an Islamic version is thriving in Iran where the symbol of the economic revolution is the newly revived stock exchange, on which many fortunes were made during last year's boom when prices jumped seven fold.

The market is set for another surge if pragmatic supporters of President Rafsanjani beats the radicals in Friday's general election. Islamic hardliners oppose what they say is the "leech-like capitalism" of reformers like President Rafsanjani, the prosperous son of a pistachio-growing family.

Akhbar Zargani Nejjad, a leading broker, said: "The market is aware that many of the radicals are against us, so of course, like in the West, stock prices will be affected by the results. Everybody in this building is rooting for Rafsanjani and the moderates."

Amid the potted palms and frenzied yelling of the 30 brokers, the public gazes down from a gallery where they urge further rises in the prices of shares in the newly privatised state companies. It is hard not to imagine a look of distaste on the portrait of Ayatollah Khomeini which surveys the proceedings.

The revival began in earnest after his death in 1989, with spectacular price rises and, so far, no collapse. Shares in the star performer, a plastics company, has soared more than 900 per

cent since the market regained the acceptability it once enjoyed under the Shah.

"We never actually closed, but after the Islamic revolution, the volume of business was so small we did not function," said Mr Nejjad. "Things are now so busy we are moving to a much bigger new building in six months and planning to introduce full computerisation."

At first glance, the main differences in the exchange from those in the Far East, on which it is modelled, are the absence of ties — still regarded as an unacceptable sign of bourgeois decadence — new technology, and the veils worn by all women.

Iran's mullahs are among those who have profited from the stock boom and the new spirit of entrepreneurship. Recently, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the spiritual leader, went so far as to warn brush clerics bidding too lavishly to abandon their expensive homes and BMWs or risk losing the trust of the people.

Deregulation and privatisation have been at the core of President Rafsanjani's attempt to rescue Iran's centralised economy and, earlier this year, shares in the ten main motor manufacturers

were put up for sale. Western diplomats say the controls are being dismantled much faster than expected.

Apart from parliamentary opposition to the liberalisation, there have also been violent protests. Late last year, there were mysterious fires in the Tehran bazaar. Slogans such as "Hashemi Shah" and "death to the anti-people regime of Rafsanjani" began to appear.

At the stock exchange, ordinary people as well as the nation's elite and its merchant classes are among those now buying shares. "The enthusiasm to buy shares is so great we are going to set up a system for brokers' offices to be established in the main provincial cities as well as the capital," said the impeccably dressed Mr Nejjad. "At present, the only way people there can buy shares is through the banks."

Other signs of the changes in society being encouraged by the pragmatists have been an upsurge of English language teaching and a move towards setting a realistic exchange rate for the rial. Gillette the razor manufacturer, has returned but shares of foreign companies cannot be quoted on the exchange.

Just in time



# Germany's far right leaders fall out days after poll victory



Schönhuber: rude about DVU leader

STUNG into action by the unexpected success of the far right in Sunday's state elections, leaders of Germany's main political parties meet next week to try at last to agree detailed methods of speeding up the cumbersome vetting procedures for asylum seekers pouring into the country at the rate of more than 1,000 a day.

An outline plan for collecting all refugees in centralised camps and dealing with their cases in a maximum of six weeks was agreed last October, but it is still collecting dust on the Bundestag shelf because of bickering between the parties.

According to the plan, an accelerated process will make it possible to expel those without political grounds for asylum before they establish roots in Germany. Under the present system, vetting can take more than a year, at the end of which time it is virtually impossible to make anyone

Bonn finds its plan to vet the increasing number of refugees cannot be implemented quickly because it lacks the staff, Ian Murray writes in Bonn

leave, whether or not they are granted asylum.

The scheme envisages setting up about 90 camps throughout the country, where the paperwork, hearings and appeals would be dealt with like in a production line. Empty army camps could be used but the political argument over who pays for them has become complicated, allowing the far right to exploit the differences while the number of refugees grows. But it will be impossible to implement the scheme quickly even if it is introduced as planned from July 1. The number of civil servants required will have to be doubled, but first they will need training.

In the first quarter of the year 97,000 asylum seekers arrived and only 54,000 cases were dealt with. The queue is growing by about 15,000 a month and unless the staff is doubled overnight the backlog will take more than a year to clear, even if entry of all asylum seekers is stopped immediately.

German newspapers and politicians, recovering from the initial setback of Sunday's results, yesterday issued a warning against public panic that Germany was on the way to becoming another Nazi state. *Bild*, the mass circulation daily, posed the question dramatically on its front page, but concluded that this was not possible.



Bild asks whether another Nazi state is possible

Meanwhile Gerhard Frey, the leader of the German People's Union (DVU), that won 93,000 votes in Sunday's state election in Schleswig-Holstein, fell out with Franz Schönhuber, the leader of the

Republicans, who won 530,000 votes in Baden-Württemberg. Herr Frey said in Munich yesterday that he intended to put up candidates throughout Germany in the 1994 federal elections but re-

jected any idea of forming an alliance with the Republicans. Herr Schönhuber only owed his success to having once been a television personality, he said scornfully.

Herr Schönhuber was equally rude, saying that Herr Frey was nothing but a collector of Nazi memorabilia. The Republicans, he said, would have nothing to do with a party which was unconstitutional. The DVU has been under close scrutiny by German counter-intelligence for possible breach of the constitution which could lead to it being banned. The latest annual counter-intelligence report devoted four pages to the DVU, concluding that it was not dangerous.

Herr Frey, nevertheless, publishes a successful party newspaper. The circulation is secret but there is a 100,000 print order, making it the second-largest weekly newspaper after *Die Zeit*. A lively-looking tabloid called the

*National Zeitung*, it promises to tell its readers the truth. This week's truths include a lead story claiming that a high-level delegation from the World Jewish Congress went to East Berlin in November 1989 "to plot" against unification and that the chancellor is now having to pay world Jewry's bill.

There is a feature about the "criminal British air attack" on Lübeck. "The Allied mass murder of the German civilian population never had the least military importance," the paper said. The DVU was protesting at the British decision to raise a memorial to Sir Arthur "Bomber" Harris, the man "who wanted to turn Germany into a desert".

Readers are told that Berlin is not going to be the capital and that criminals from all over the world now see Germany as an El Dorado. Classified advertisements allow readers to order silk battle flags of the Third Reich.

## Coalition will take weeks to form

# Christian Democrats seek new alliance

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

THE Italian Christian Democrat party began seeking new allies yesterday after falling below 30 per cent of the vote in a general election for the first time in 46 years.

A definitive response from the main candidates to join a widened coalition with the Republicans and the former communist Democratic Party of the Left (PDS) may not be forthcoming for weeks. Neither party is in a hurry to be seen to betray the voters who cast ballots on Sunday and Monday in favour of far-reaching reforms.

President Cossiga began a visit to the United States yesterday, much to the disgust of many Christian Democrats who partly blame him for the debacle because of his repeated attacks on the established political parties. Before he left Rome, the president said he may nominate his own candidate for prime minister if party leaders could not come up with a convincing government formula. There is speculation he might choose Giovanni Spadolini, the general Republican former prime minister, who had

talked with Signor Cossiga on Monday.

Final results for the chamber of deputies gave the Christian Democrats 29.7 per cent of the vote, compared with 34.3 at the last election in 1987. The caretaker government of Giulio Andreotti, which groups Christian Democrats, Socialists, Liberals and Social Democrats, won 48 per cent of the vote and managed a majority of 16 seats in the chamber.

Political commentators agreed that this would not be sufficient to introduce political reforms or tackle the budget deficit and national debt, which threaten Italy's future in the European Community. "The lesson is that this government has been sacked," said Eugenio Scalfari, editor of *La Repubblica* newspaper. Among those who lost their seats was Guido Carli, the treasury minister, in Genoa, and in Turin, Guido Bodrato, the industry minister, and Renato Altissimo, the Liberal leader.

**ITALIAN ELECTION**

ROME (AP) — The official results of the Chamber of Deputies race in both seats and percent with all votes counted. Also shown are the results of the last national elections in 1987.

Parties	1992	Seats	1987	Percent
Christian Democrats	29.7	206	34.3	28.4
Democratic Party of the Left (formerly Communists)	16.1	107	26.6	17.7
Socialists	13.6	82	14.3	9.4
Northern League	8.7	55	5	1
Communist Refoundation	8.5	55	5	1
Italian Social Movement	6.4	44	5.9	3.6
Republicans	4.4	27	3.7	2.1
Liberals	2.8	17	2.1	1.1
Green	2.8	17	2.1	1.1
Social Democrats	2.7	16	3.0	1.7

The rest of the votes were scattered among smaller parties, each taking less than 2 per cent of the vote.

## Man in the news

# Bossi waits for call from Rome

BY JOHN PHILLIPS

WITH 55 seats in the Chamber of Deputies, the League of the North has become overnight the fourth largest party in Italy and Umberto Bossi, its brash leader, is confident that the federalist movement will soon be asked to participate in a government.

"I think they will knock on our door," said Signor Bossi, who is one of only two parliamentarians elected for the league at the last election in 1987. "Keeping us in the refrigerator could be expensive as we are seeing."

The 50-year-old former rock singer crowned his success by ousting Bettino Craxi, the Socialist leader, from his role as the politician with the most votes in Milan. The league is now the largest party in the Italian business capital with about 18,000 more votes than the Christian Democrats for the Chamber of Deputies.

Signor Bossi takes single-handed credit for the Christian Democrats losing nearly 5 per cent of their previous vote, or the support of about two million Italians. "Look what's happening to the Christian Democrats. Only we were able to defeat them."

The league's crude appeal to northern taxpayers tired of paying, as they see it, to subsidise the impoverished *Mezzogiorno* of the south struck a chord not only in Lombardy, Liguria and the Veneto region, where it has done well in the past, but also in Emilia Romagna, the southern boundary of the "Republic of the North" proposed by Signor Bossi, where on average, it had 10 per cent of the vote.

In Parma and Piacenza the league won more than 15 per cent and in Bologna, the capital of the Italian "red belt", it notched up 8 per cent, taken mostly from the former communist Democratic Party of the Left. "The north has chosen federalism and Europe. The south has chosen Africa

and fascism," Signor Bossi said, referring to the gains made by the Italian Social Movement in the south.

Paradoxically, the enormous gains made by the league probably herald a testing time for the scruffy senator who *La Repubblica*, with typical Roman snobbery, yesterday described as "looking perpetually as if he spent the night in a second-class railway carriage". He has always been strong on rhetoric and vague on what programme the league would try to implement if it had legislative clout.

If the devolutionists are seriously, as Signor Bossi says, "a party of government temporarily in opposition", he may have to take a back-seat in bargaining with traditional parties to more thoughtful leaders such as Gianfranco Miglio, the ideologue of the league movement, who is an authority on constitutional law.

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Lost for words: Arnaldo Forlani, the Christian Democrat leader, trying to explain to reporters yesterday the setback his party suffered in the polls

## Army to act as buffer in Moldavia

Bandery, Moldavia: Andrei Kozhev, the Russian foreign minister, received a hero's welcome yesterday when he welcomed Russian-speaking separatists to a peace plan to end Moldova's ethnic conflict.

Mr Kozhev, who was visiting the breakaway Transnistria region after attending peace talks between Russia, Moldavia, Ukraine and Romania in Kishinev, the Moldavian capital, on Monday, said former Soviet troops in the republic would act as a buffer in the fighting.

Mr Kozhev's announcement ran contrary to other reports. A Moldavian foreign ministry spokesman had said that the ministers at the peace talks had considered using Ukrainian troops as buffers rather than the Russian-controlled 14th Army. (Reuters)

## Yeltsin speech paves the path to reform

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

RUSSIA's reformist government appeared to be out of trouble yesterday and well-placed to embark on further economic change, after a rousing speech to the Russian Congress by President Yeltsin and a short, sharp reminder of the alternatives to reform from Yegor Gaidar, the first deputy premier.

Congress deputies are likely to approve reforms with a series of qualifications, none of them significant. The government's opponents will attempt to strip Mr Yeltsin of the special powers he was granted last autumn. In particular the power to appoint the government, and will try to enhance the role of parliament in the proposed new constitution.

He received his most hostile reception since becoming president, but gradually won over his audience with pledges to reduce taxes on industry and agriculture, to include representatives of industry and business in government and to provide additional credits, but only on tough conditions. During questions he disclosed that Russia planned to start guarding its formerly open state border, with old Soviet republics, as soon as possible.

## Jet raids greet Bosnian statehood

FROM TIM JUDAH AND TOM WALKER IN BRUSSELS

YUGOSLAV airforce jets yesterday greeted the European Community's recognition of the independence of Bosnia-Herzegovina with dawn raids on two southern towns. Local radio reported six dead.

James Baker, the American Secretary of State, signalled his country's recognition yesterday of the independence of Bosnia as well as Slovenia and Croatia. In a satellite link from Washington with journalists in Brussels, Moscow, Kiev and Munich, Mr Baker said the US "would act in co-operation" with the European Community on Yugoslav affairs. "As you know, today the United States is recognising the independence of three states, formerly republics of Yugoslavia," he said.

The Yugoslav airforce said it had hit Citluk and Liscica in western Herzegovina, in response to attacks from Croatian forces there.

In spite of continued sporadic sniper fire, people emerged to inspect damage in Sarajevo and shop for bread and other essentials. Barricades remained in the predominantly Muslim part of town and gunmen checked all cars. Serb militias were also in control of a part of Sarajevo.

Bosnia remained in utter political chaos. The two Serb members of its presidency resigned along with its Croat prime minister.

There was little celebration of the republic's recognition, either officially or on the streets. Muhammad Cengic, a Muslim and deputy prime minister, said: "We welcome the EC's decision... at least it will discourage all those who want to break up Bosnia."

There were persistent reports yesterday that the Yugoslav army in Bosnia was in turmoil. Units in Banja Luka and eastern Herzegovina, including the airforce, were clearly in no mood to recognise Bosnian independence. But Mr Cengic said that one of the most senior generals in the republic had told him the army would acknowledge Sarajevo's authority.



## Brussels losing battle on fraud

Strasbourg: A forthcoming report from the European Commission's fraud committee says the European Community is losing the battle against international fiddlers of its trade and farm subsidy rules (George Brock writes).

In the first six months of last year, customs fraud cases rose by one-third over the figure for the previous half year. The report makes no estimate of the proportion of the EC's £44 billion budget that ends up in the wrong hands. Unofficial estimates vary between 5 and 10 per cent of the amount.

The report paints a picture of harassed officials struggling against lax rules, national governments jealous of their own policing prerogatives, and cunning criminals.

## Delors defends EC treaties

Copenhagen: The Maastricht treaties on reform of the European Community cannot be renegotiated if Danes reject them in a referendum on June 2, Jacques Delors, the EC president, said. "One country cannot oblige the others to renegotiate," he told Danish television. Polls show many Danes are opposed to the treaties.

Yesterday in France, he told members of the European parliament that the EC should beware of admitting many new members. (AFP)

## Burden looms

Nicosia: British troops could face an extra burden in Cyprus after reports that two countries may withdraw from the UN peacekeeping force. Boutros Boutros Ghali, UN secretary-general, said he did not believe other countries would fill the gap.

## Mayor dies

Athens: Antonis Trisitis, an architect and town planner who became mayor of Athens, has died of complications following a stroke. He was 55. He had been elected on government-backed promises to restore some of the city's former glory. (AP)

## Strikers beaten

Madrid: Police clashed with striking cleaners at Madrid airport, injuring three and permitting alternative crews to sweep two weeks' garbage. Television footage showed police using batons against the strikers, who were demanding higher wages. (AP)

## Envoy can stay

Amsterdam: The Netherlands has given Iraq's former ambassador in The Hague permission to stay in the country, a government official said. Safa Salih al-Falaki quit in January, citing repression under President Saddam Hussein. (Reuters)

## Parties sign up

Prague: Forty political groups have registered for Czechoslovakia's election on June 5 and 6, officials said. Campaigning begins on May 13. Parties must win at least 5 per cent of the vote in the proportional representation system to win seats. (Reuters)

## Girl sees visions

Stockholm: About 45,000 people have gone to a church in Sodertälje, south of Stockholm, in the past three weeks to be blessed by a 16-year-old girl who claims to have seen Jesus Christ, the Holy Mother Mary, and the Lebanese saint, Mar Charbel.

# Pravda returns to bite the hand that feeds it

Lenin is back on the masthead of the daily he founded, as it rails against Russia's rulers, Bruce Clark writes

PRAVDA, formerly the official daily newspaper of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, has returned from the grave to haunt President Yeltsin. It reappeared on the news-stands yesterday for the first time in three weeks. "We are with you again, dear readers, we will be with you for ever," proclaimed a message on the masthead, which has restored the image of Lenin for the first time since the failed coup in August after which the paper was suspended for several days.

Having failed to keep afloat in the icy waters of free enterprise, the paper established by Lenin in 1912 managed to secure life-saving credit from the pro-business, pro-Western

government that it loves to hate. But if *Pravda* felt any gratitude, it was not showing it. In a vitriolic address to delegates at the Russian Congress of People's Deputies, the newspaper—which plans three editions a week—accused the country's present rulers of hypocrisy, greed, even treachery, in tones reminiscent—ironically—of George Orwell's *Animal Farm*.

"People who only a year ago were agitating for the abolition of all privileges for the party have now received

luxurious villas and settled into armoured-plated cars... behind whose darkened windows one cannot see the dreadful tenements, the decaying hospitals, the empty pharmacies, the ruined nursery schools," it thundered.

Lenin's stern gaze and bald pate are seen in reproductions of the medals earned by the newspaper for its loyalty to the communist cause. "Medals earned by generations of *Pravda* readers, who faithfully served the motherland with their pens in peace and war",



readers are reminded. One of the reborn paper's most unlikely features is a brief interview with Mr Yeltsin, in which he wishes the newspaper well but urges it not to add to public bitterness. "I think *Pravda* should be published, but it

should take the course of democracy," Mr Yeltsin opines, drawing a tart comment from the newspaper that it supports reform but not immiseration.

*Pravda* is not the only institution to be left stranded by the collapse of Soviet communism, as was made clear today by some juicy revelations about the \$200 million (£115 million) in state funds that the Soviet ruling party allegedly funnelled to friendly foreign movements in its final decade of existence.

*Komsomolskaya Pravda*, formerly the communist youth daily, which adapted to the modern world long before its sister paper, published a list of alleged donations decreed by the central

committee in January 1990. They ranged from \$1 million to the Portuguese Communist party, and \$900,000 for the Greek comrades to five-figure sums for smaller communist movements in such countries as Nepal, San Marino and Lesotho.

According to the paper, in the late 1980s, the Soviet communists provided campaign funds to electoral candidates in France, India and Pakistan as well as weapons for communists in Sri Lanka. Also reproduced is a memorandum urging the party to come up with more than \$600,000 to cover the debts of an Italian newspaper, or face the "extremely undesirable" prospect of the publication's antecedents coming to light.



## Woodrow Wyatt

### The voters will spot that Labour's plans spell bankruptcy

On November 20, 1990, before the first round of the Tory leadership contest, I wrote here that if Mrs Thatcher were to be deposed I would advise my millions of *New York Times* readers to vote for Mr Kinnock. So why have I advised them to vote for Mr Major? Because Mrs Thatcher, to whom I remain close, passionately wants him to win. She is convinced that in his own style he is committed to thrusting forward the revolution she started and which transformed Britain. She is certain a Kinnock victory would spin us back to the gruesome 1970s, and that it would take a following Tory government ten years to undo the damage. Who am I to disagree with Mrs Thatcher?

Superficially the polls look bad for a Tory overall majority. But the much-vaunted ICM/PA poll of 10,460 voters giving Labour a 2.5 per cent lead was flawed. The interviews covered only half the constituencies and were conducted between Tuesday and Friday last week. As Harold Wilson remarked, "a week is a long time in politics". So far the rival statistics have prevented us seeing the simple truth, but it is fast becoming clear. John Smith made several assertions last week. He would not devalue the pound. To keep it stable he would use up Bank of England reserves, put up interest rates and impose personal and business credit controls. He would not seek to hold inflation at its present 4.1 per cent or drive it lower, but considers the average EC 5.5 per cent rate acceptable.

Foreign money men are not stupid. Already fearing a socialist win most of them, like the Saudi Arabians, have started shifting investments from Britain. If the socialists actually won, the rush would be a torrent. To hold the pound and retrieve foreign money would need a long spell of very high interest rates of around 17 per cent. Mortgage payments and house repossessions would soar. Credit controls on buying goods mean higher deposits and shorter repayment terms. The plus much higher interest rates would kill recovery, and unemployment would gather headlong pace.

John Smith would be unable to control inflation, which would soon approach the 27 per cent achieved by the last Labour government. The tiny national gains offered to voters in Mr Smith's alternative budget would vanish as inflation savaged the value of pensions and all in the land found themselves far worse off. That is one clear, simple, truthful message Mr Major should hammer today: recovery is impossible under the socialists.

He must ram home too the sharp difference between Tories and Labour on immigration. The Tories intend to keep it to an absolute minimum. The socialists would let it rip, obeying the new EC immigrant quota rules, reversing the Asylum Bill's screening of the 90 per cent bogus political refugee applications from the 45,000 applying annually, as well as allowing in the usual 50,000 a year from the new Commonwealth and elsewhere. (If Britain is as ghastly as Mr Kinnock says, why do so many want to come here?) Voters of whatever ethnic origin are terrified of changing our present peaceful balanced society into one torn by racial strife as at least 150,000 new immigrants arrive each year. They know that in Germany and France, excessive immigration has led to the dramatic rise of extreme right-wing racist parties.

Today Mr Major must vigorously reinforce the hardening of his vote. I predict the Tories will poll around 39-40 per cent. Labour around 35 per cent, and the Liberal Democrats about 23.5 per cent. This should give Mr Major an overall majority of between 25 and 50.

## Peter Stothard on how a beat poet with a radical message gingers up the American presidential race

# Verse and worse in New York



Allen Ginsberg, doyen of the old poets' society

the Vietnam war, or that having failed to flatter even Mr Wilson sufficiently for that, he once greeted him as "Prime Minister Pearson", the man who was running Canada at the time.

New York memories tend not to go back so far. Those who accuse Margaret Thatcher of being President Reagan's pathfinder hope that Neil Kinnock can do the same for their own candidate of the left. The Brown camp, however, has not been reading many English newspapers recently. "If John Lennon were still alive, would he be out with Kinnock?", I was asked, while Mr Ginsberg groaned on about "Sarcoma Plutonic Oregon".

I very much doubted it. I replied. Unless the former Beatle had changed his act and become a media-mogul or Channel Four film-maker, Mr Kinnock would have been happier for him stay in New York. "Jerry Brown is more like Mr Kinnock's enemy, Tony Benn," I said, "an upper-class radical who wants to tear down

every national institution except the trade unions." But my "Brownie" companions had, quite reasonably, never heard of Tony Benn. The Brownies see their man as part of an international movement for change, stretching from Moscow to Los Angeles. If Britain wants to join, it is quite welcome, whatever the details about Kinnock and Kaufmans and Benns.

Governor Clinton's camp has been keeping a more informed watch on the battle for Downing Street. Clinton's followers know that their formula for change is indeed comparable to Mr Kinnock's. Both men have worked to reform their parties from the inside. Both have beaten traditionalists and extremists of an

older generation. Each believes that spectres of his movement's past—whether they be grey-bearded poets or tea-drinking socialists—are more likely to boost their conservative opponents.

The other day Mr Ginsberg said that he rather liked Governor Clinton. Perhaps he felt guilty at exerting all his effort on behalf of his Californian neighbour and sometime fellow Ashram-visitor. The Clinton team has not, however, returned the message of goodwill. A campaign worker pointed me to *Howl*, the Ginsberg poem that won him a worldwide reputation in 1956. Line 16 talks of "half-dragging Arkansas"—not the kind of omen Mr Clinton wished to invoke in the week when "not

inhaling" marijuana had already caused him quite enough trouble.

Governor Clinton's advisers are doubtful about whether there is any real connection between the voting cycles across the Atlantic. The more isolationist the voter here in New York, the more likely he or she is to believe in a hot band of radical air spreading across the globe. Traditional internationalists, including those in the White House, are much more sceptical.

The Clinton camp can, however, see the advantage in suggesting that Mr Kinnock (if he wins) is cut from the same cloth as its own 1992 champion. An early meeting is even on the cards. Governor Clinton may not believe in any connection between the rightward swing in America and that in Britain at the beginning of the 1980s, but there is every benefit in suggesting that there was. John Major and George Bush can easily be stereotyped as coming from the same old grey mould.

President Bush decided this week to set out his own radical agenda for America, offering a modest campaign finance reform and restrictions on how long congressmen can keep their seats on Capitol Hill. Up in the Oval Office he may be isolated from reality, but even there the smell of reality's frustration and anger has seeped through. He has temporarily beaten back Patrick Buchanan, and Mr Brown is Governor Clinton's problem, but there is still the hydra's new head to slay: H. Ross Perot, the Texas billionaire who threatens to use \$100 million of his own money to run an independent presidential race in November.

The prospect of all that money is worrying to the White House. But it is far more worrying to the Clinton campaign. If Mr Perot does spend at that level, ignoring the legal limits set for those who want federal matching funds, President Bush will have no option but to follow. America's liberal Democrats could be left looking as poverty-stricken as Britain's Liberal Democrats. The old poet who currently symbolises the year of the outsider may soon be exchanged for an old banker.

## How the Queen picks her man

A hung parliament would pose unwelcome problems at the palace, explains Lord St John of Fawsley

Despite the gyrations of the opinion polls, a hung parliament remains very much on the cards after the polling booths close tomorrow. What is likely to happen after that?

A coalition government is much the least likely outcome. The various parties are too far apart, and in any case, as Disraeli put it, "England does not love coalitions". The only true example this century have needed a world war to bring them about.

The process of forming a government starts with the Queen. She is guided by one golden rule: the modern monarchy must be and be seen to be above party political strife. Partisanship of any kind would not only be self-defeating but could end in the abolition of the monarchy itself.

The constitutional principle which should guide her through the labyrinth is clear enough. She must send for the man (or woman) who is likely to command the confidence of the House of Commons. I put it this way because it is not necessary for a prime minister to be able to command a majority of the votes in the Commons. Anyone can be asked to form a government who has a reasonable prospect of not being turned out of office immediately by the House. Hence with a hung parliament, a minority government immediately becomes a possibility.

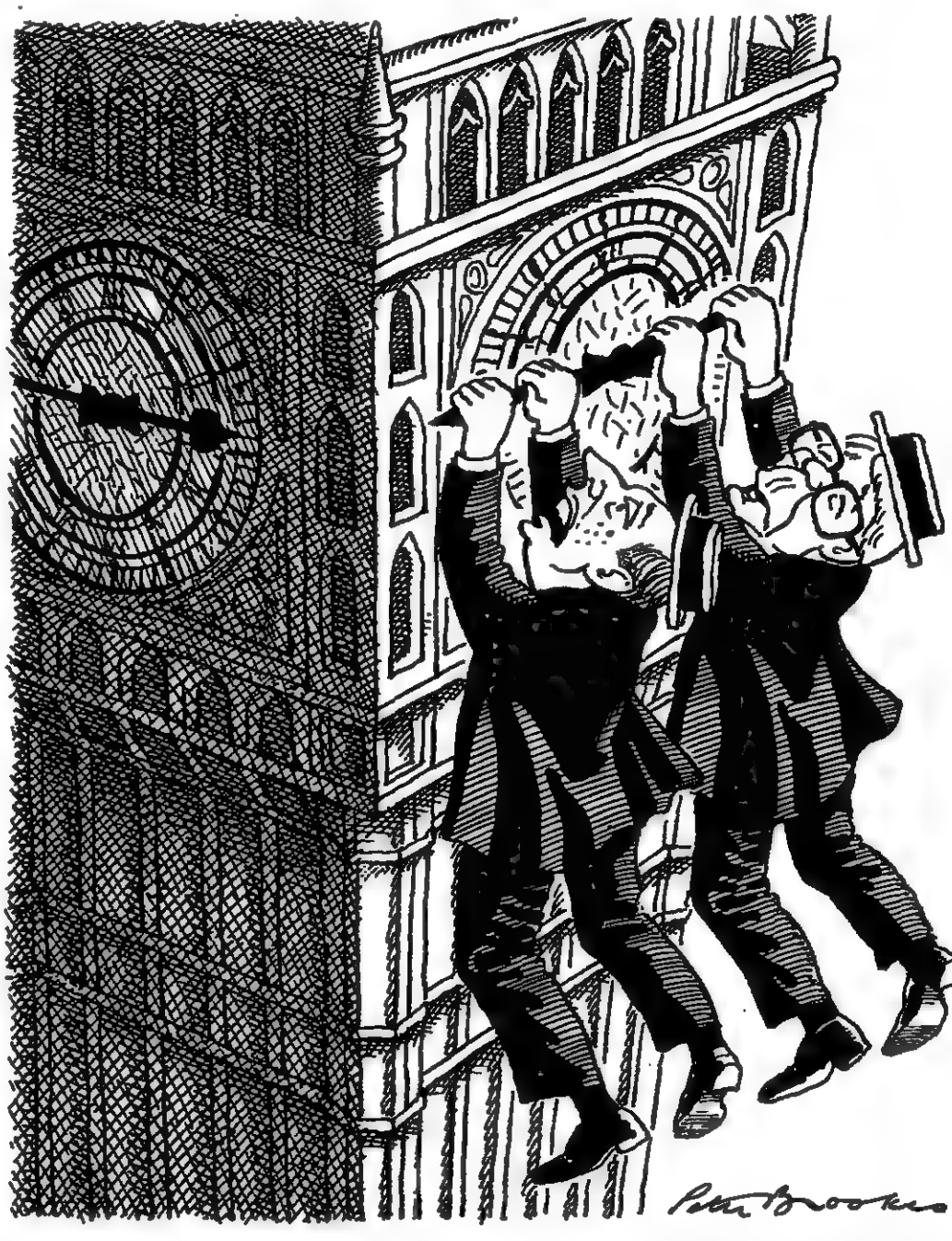
There have been 23 general elections in Britain this century,

and of these, five have yielded no result: two in 1910, and the others in 1923, 1929 and February 1974. In each case the impasse was resolved by the formation of a minority administration.

For most of the 19th century, an incumbent prime minister who failed to secure a clear majority at the polls waited to meet Parliament for his fate to be decided. Disraeli was the first prime minister to recognise the effective sovereignty of the electorate, and in 1868 he resigned as soon as the election result was known. But he knew that he had lost the election and that a Liberal government would be formed.

Baldwin took a different course in 1923, when the Conservatives were the largest party. He waited for his government to be defeated on the floor of the House before tendering his resignation to the king. Party political calculation played a part in this, since he wished the Liberals to be seen as a party who first put Labour (the second largest party) into office, but still he acted with total constitutional propriety.

So did Edward Heath after the first election of 1974, when he declined to resign at once and waited to see if he could reach an accord with the Liberals. He was criticised at the time, but he was within his rights to make the attempt. His difficulty was that even with an acquiescent Liberal party he needed the support of the Ulster Unionists to remain



in office, and after Sunningdale this was not forthcoming. When it became clear that his government would not survive a first vote in the Commons, he quite properly resigned. The Queen then sent for Harold Wilson to form a government.

In reaching this decision, the Queen knew that Mr Wilson had a reasonable chance of forming a

government which would last at least for a time. She must also have born in mind that he had emerged from the election as the leader of the party with the largest number of seats in Parliament, but the first consideration was constitutionally more significant than the second.

If tomorrow's election produces no clear verdict, the

initiative lies not with Her Majesty but with Mr Major as incumbent prime minister. If he judges that he has a reasonable chance of securing the support of the Commons, he may well decide to stay in office, to meet Parliament and to let the House decide his fate. Constitutionally, such a course could not be faulted, but if the Conservative government suf-

fers a devastating loss of seats, then politically it might be a grave error. Effectively Mr Major would have lost the election and he could be seen as the head of a rejected administration desperately clinging to office. The most likely course for him to take in such circumstances is to resign.

The Queen would then almost certainly send for the Leader of the Opposition to form a new government, on the grounds that providing an alternative government is part of his duty, and that Mr Kinnock would be the man most likely to command the confidence of the Commons.

What then would this leave Mr Ashdown and his demand for electoral reform as a price of parliamentary support? Almost certainly both would be left on the shelf. Neither of the other parties could agree to proportional representation *en route*, and if either did it could not guarantee to deliver.

A major constitutional change of this kind could not be made without a further general election or at least a referendum. Negotiations on the matter would probably take so long that the kaleidoscope of politics would have been shaken up again by the time a conclusion had been reached. This happened after the election of 1929, when it took over two years for agreement to be reached on the alternative vote, and the government was then swept away in the economic storm of 1931, before it could be implemented.

One further major constitutional issue would arise from a hung parliament. Does the Queen have a right to refuse a dissolution of Parliament to an incumbent prime minister, or must she automatically grant the request? In constitutional form, the prime minister does not advise a dissolution of Parliament, but requests one. A theoretical right to refuse undoubtedly resides in the Crown, but it has not been exercised this century. A refusal in practice could expose the monarch to great dangers of seeming to be politically partisan. I cannot conceive that the Queen would be tempted to follow this course, and no one who has the welfare of our constitutional constitution at heart would be likely to try to persuade her to do so.



## ...and moreover ALAN COREN

Well, I shall be all right tomorrow, shall I? I shall know where I stand, even as I am standing where I shall be standing, because I shall know where everything else stands, too, as the result of a little bleep, and as soon as that little bleep bleeps, I shall cast my vote. Everyone else standing in Dersingham Road polling station will also hear the little bleep, but it will mean nothing to them, because they will be standing in secret serried ranks in the becurtained vote-battery, unable to see what it is that is bleeping.

As a matter of fact, I may have a little difficulty in seeing it myself, because it will be attached to my belt by a clever detachable device, but since the device has so far proved to be cleverer than I am, viz it is on my belt as I write because I cannot detach it, I may have to take my belt off to see it before I vote, and if I have to do that, I may not get a vote at all. For if you were an election officer and you saw a torso concealed behind a half-curtain taking its belt off, and the leg of its trousers beginning to falter, you would feel your duty if you did not shout "Oy!" and send your boy outside to fetch a constable.

I see I shall have to explain about the bleeping thing, because I sense your mounting impatience, you are serious people with serious minds to make up and time running out, and you haven't got a bleeping

thing to help you. I have. It arrived on Tuesday morning, in two boxes, one containing the thing and the other the device for attaching the thing to your belt. There was also a letter from someone signing himself Mike, who lives at Mercury House, Brentside Executive Centre, Brentford. I do not normally give a second thought to a letter from somewhere called Brentside Executive Centre, but since Mike had also included a delivery note from someone signing herself Samantha, keen to tell me that she lived at Unit 2 of Brentside Executive Centre, I thought I had better read on, because you never know your luck.

But first, Mike's letter. It informs me that my interest in the general election has now reached fever pitch, and that I need to stay abreast of developments. To this end, he is enclosing a pre-programmed Mercury pager, which will bleep every time there is important election news, telling me to pull it off my belt and look at its little screen to see what that news is. Mike has also enclosed a 32-page instruction booklet packed with fascinating stuff, including the thought-provoking information that the pager's memory has 1984 characters in it, and that it has an "Escalator" function whereby the bleep starts soft and sirens up to a maximum volume "to announce reception of 'special' messages, and to override the pager's vibrator operation".

I could not discover anything

further about this vibrator operation, probably just as well, but all may be revealed if I get a "special" message. Oddly, I haven't received one yet — I should have thought Prime Minister's car fills with egg would have qualified, but there you are — all I have received is a lot of stock exchange information and similar stuff hardly worth dropping your trousers for, and such newswatches as the one telling me there was less ozone over Europe than ever before, no electoral help at all, given that I cannot remember where our Natural Law Party candidate stands on this one. I think his plan was to get everyone to eat a factory, though that may have been his health policy.

But I have a graver problem. Mike (and indeed Samantha, if she'd care to meet me one evening in the Brentside Executive Wine-U-Like and discuss it over a Malibu or two), which is that I have absolutely no idea where Mercury Faging Ltd stands politically. Floating as I am, I could well be a sucker for an Escalator tomorrow morning telling me, as I have pencilled, that Neil Kinnock has been caught in flagrante with Imelda Marcos, or that John Major is a Kray triplet, or that Paddy Ashdown has just shot somebody's dog.

In short, how can I be sure of the impartiality of the information the pager wants me to receive? Face it, brothers, anything with 1984 characters in it needs careful watching.

## Initial reactions

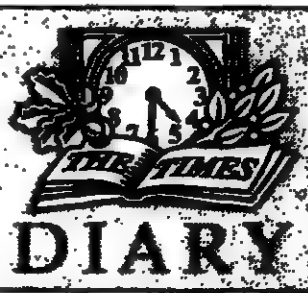
JOHN MAJOR may have ruled out a deal with the Liberal Democrats, but he has had a go-between in Ulster wooing the Unionists for almost the entire campaign. He is Jonathan Caine — special adviser to Peter Brooke, the Northern Ireland secretary — and his report on how to do a deal with the Ulster Unionists will land on John Major's desk tomorrow.

While Brooke has spent only three days in the province, Caine has stayed there throughout, ensuring that the Unionist MPs are in amenable mood should their support be needed to keep a Tory government in power.

Caine was appointed in December, the first political appointment at the Northern Ireland Office since 1985. Senior Conservatives denied that he had been given the job to lead a charm offensive, but he has worked assiduously ever since at rebuilding bridges with the Unionists and has close personal relationships with many of them including James Molyneux, leader of the Ulster Unionist party.

This week Caine returned to Central Office to prepare a detailed report on how get the Unionists on board. By Friday it could be the most vital weapon in the Tories' armoury if they are still clinging to power.

"I have known Jim Molyneux for some years. We get on well," says Caine. He seems already to have enjoyed considerable success. The Ulster Unionist leader has been spotted sporting a badge, produced in Central Office, proudly proclaiming "JM for PM". Whether the initials stand for John Major or James Molyneux, he isn't saying.



● Tory Central Office clearly needs all the help it can get, but this is ridiculous. The latest "daily notes" information pack, sent to all 645 Tory candidates, bears the headline: "Why animals would vote Conservative (if they could)".

## Coach parties

LABOUR's economic management skills are looking a little threadbare after the parties this week calculated the final costs of their leaders' battle buses.

Neil Kinnock's tour is the most expensive, with journalists being asked to pay £2,000 on top of a deposit of £3,000. While ITN paid the extra immediately, both the BBC and BSkyB demanded a breakdown of the costs. Labour declined, and the camera crews were forced to pay up anyway.

Richard Best, one of the journalists on the tour, says: "If we didn't pay up we were warned that we would be chucked off the bus and refused access. I don't know how they can justify these costs." Journalists travelling with Kinnock for a day on the south coast were charged £200 to cover a bus to Waterloo, a second class rail ticket to Southampton and a coach connection at the other end. Yesterday the Tories gleefully announced that their package had been costed at £4,700. "It's a snip

at the price, and you get John Major thrown in as well," says a spokeswoman. Yet Paddy Ashdown's campaign seems to have offered the best value of all. He has not only covered the most miles, but comes in as the cheapest: just £4,500 for some of the most frenetic campaigning ever seen at a British election.

## Freshwater hope

A NEWLY discovered photograph of Tennyson may hold the key to saving a historic house on the Isle of Wight from the developers. The print, together with another of Carlyle, has been found in an album of pictures taken by the poet laureate's great friend Julia Margaret Cameron. It bears the inscription "To Nellie Mundy with much love", which forced both the Cameron Trust and the Isle of

her house," says Hugh Noyes, son of the poet Alfred Noyes and a trustee of the Cameron Trust. The county council, however, regards the photos as more important than her former home at Freshwater, where Tennyson was a frequent caller. The photos are not for sale, they insist. The campaign to save the house is still far short of the necessary £300,000. The bulldozers are almost at the gates.

● Adverts have gone up for Britain's biggest ever pet show at Earls Court next month. Take the family, but on no account take man's best friend. "No pets admitted", the advert declares.

## Mowgli's mogul

STEVEN SPIELBERG had two reasons for being in London last night. As well as the premiere of *Hook*, he was meeting two unknown British writers, whom he has signed up to work on his next project, a full length animated feature film of an obscure musical, *Just So*.

The writers, George Stiles and Anthony Drewe, both aged 30, have worked together since they were at Exeter University, and will shortly fly to Los Angeles to work with Spielberg. They will be accompanied by Cameron Mackintosh, who put up £100,000 when their musical, based on four of Kipling's *Just So* stories, was first staged at a fringe theatre two years ago. The production was not a huge success, and a planned transfer to the West End never happened. But two of Spielberg's producers were impressed and suggested the project to their boss.

Stiles and Drewe will fly to Hollywood fresh from the somewhat less glamorous surroundings of Buxton, where they have just finished performing some of the songs from *Just So*.



Wight county council, owner of the photographs. However, Tennyson's published letters include one dated October 1849 to an Elizabeth Susan Mundy, which may lead to further discoveries of valuable photographs. The last works by Cameron to be sold went to a Japanese buyer for \$5 million. The sale of Julia Margaret's photos may be the only way to save

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## MAJOR'S FIRST TEST

The 1992 election is now too close to call. Evidence that Labour and the Conservatives are running neck and neck has raised the possibility of a hung parliament and given a prominence to the Liberal Democrats that belies their poll rating, which remains below 1983 and 1987.

The prospect of a hung parliament is not a result of the electorate wishing to see neither of the two main parties in power. In that case, the Liberal Democrats would win a majority of popular votes and doubtless form a government. A hung parliament is in prospect because support for the two main parties appears equally divided, a wholly different matter. Those who truly want Paddy Ashdown to decide for them whether John Major or Neil Kinnock should be prime minister can vote for Mr Ashdown. Everybody else should choose for themselves by voting Labour or Conservative.

The case for Labour is stronger than it has been at any time this decade. The party Mr Kinnock inherited from Lord Callaghan and Michael Foot was a wretched thing. Its leadership had split. It was sustained by a determination on the part of the big unions that it should not be superseded by the Liberals and Social Democrats. That determination was harnessed by Mr Kinnock in 1985 and a solid compact was formed: the unions and the party conference took a diminished role in the councils of the party. In return Mr Kinnock would deliver an electable Labour team, new image, new faces, new policies, no questions asked.

Mr Kinnock has delivered, establishing himself as one of Labour's more remarkable political managers. He has done so at no small cost to his own credibility. Unilateral nuclear disarmament has been jettisoned, some would say just when some of its tenets have become plausible. Anti-Europeanism was also abandoned. Labour has dropped the union protectionism it once promised; indeed its spokesmen vie with each other in their machismo towards the unions. Nationalisation has disappeared from the manifesto. The shadow Chancellor, John Smith, has clothed his plans in unprecedented fiscal respectability, to the point of promising to raise taxes in the trough of recession. Even the commitment to economic and social planning, core of Labour's corporatism in the 1960s and 1970s, has been reduced to the oddity of a "national assessment".

In addition, Labour has responded to some of the grosser mistakes of the Thatcher years with policies that could revive some of the democratic life of the nation. The party's commitment to local and regional government, while vulnerable to its congenital disease of bureaucracy, is well-founded. So too is its desire to return to the true accountability of an unelected local property tax (which should include business rates). Its policy on devolution is sound. Its proposals to reform the constitution in matters of freedom of information and human rights reflect a proper desire for consensus. Nothing alienated Tory support in the country more than Margaret Thatcher's confrontationalism in pursuit of her more radical reforms, not least the misguided ones in local government.

But these are all cherries picked from a larger pie. The question that Labour must answer is whether Mr Kinnock's new look is cosmetic or real, whether the party's structures are now robust against the pressures to which the Wilson and Callaghan administrations succumbed. Mr Kinnock will of course tell the electorate to try him and see. He protests that he has changed his mind on virtually all substantive items of his manifesto, not because pollsters tell him to but because he has genuinely changed his mind. To those former colleagues whom he excommunicated for believing what he now believes and whom he drove into the wilderness, such words must sound unconvincing.

Mr Kinnock's spending plans are legion. *The Times*' own calculations estimate that these plans are just affordable assuming a steady rate of economic growth from today's low point. But if the Tories have found it near impossible to hold to their spending plans, how much harder will it be for Labour? A vast head of water has built up behind the Treasury dam. Mr Kinnock's spending ministers — Robin Cook at health, Jack Straw at education, Bryan Gould at local government, John Prescott at transport — are dam-busters to a man. If Labour really intends, as Mr Kinnock has said, to appropriate to the public sector the surplus of economic growth, that surplus will swiftly evaporate.

What is important here is not so much the explicit as the implicit. To what haven does a prime minister under pressure return in time of trouble? Lord Callaghan, in a famous incident in 1979, professed to the unions that he was "prostrate before you". Mr Kinnock might put it differently, but it will be these same public-sector unions to whom he has given gratuitous comfort during this campaign. It is they who want to return the public sector substantially to the terms and conditions obtaining in the 1970s, and who have forced Mr Kinnock's dam-busters to pledge as much. It is they who are strong on Labour's backbenches. It is they who sponsored Mr Kinnock's new model party. Will they give in first, or will the strain be felt on public borrowing, interest rates, the private sector and growth?

Mr Kinnock has no plausible answers to such questions. He smiles and says, trust me. He is a deeply conservative politician, made more so by the trimmings of the past five years. His vision is no longer Marxist in origin, more akin to that pronounced by Harold Wilson in 1963, a vague modernism allied to an equally vague egalitarianism, its edges hardened only in contrast to a tired Tory government. He would be a prisoner of his civil servants, a prisoner having to

adjudicate constant warfare between Mr Smith's Treasury and the spending baronies. Such adjudication must ultimately be rooted in ideology. Tory ideology states that private spending should take a rising share of the nation's wealth. Mr Kinnock wants the public sector to do so. That is the essential difference between them.

A Labour vote would thus not be a radical departure, a gamble on a new future for Britain. It would be a gamble on retesting an old theory, that public-sector consumption and investment can supply the fuel of capitalist economic growth. For all the abuse that Labour can heap on Tory attempts to find other fuel, Labour is merely returning to an exhausted pump. A vote for Mr Kinnock would be a vote for the Restoration, a retracing of steps to old verities by those whose special interests were threatened by the radicalism of the 1980s.

What would a Tory vote be? Any party that has been in power for 13 years has amassed a long record of trials and convictions, not all of them spent ones. Elections are not supposedly to punish past behaviour, but they are opportunities to review, preview and perhaps encourage *les autres*. The Tories must also overcome a widespread public mood for a change of government for the health of the system, to flush out the conduits of patronage, to refresh the parts of the body politic other reshuffles never reach.

The party under Mrs Thatcher was partisan in its appointments to public office. It justified this partially by the need to take on vested interests and push ahead with "supply side" reform. Yet it was expeditious in tackling the unions and subsidised industries, but proved hesitant in its own backyard. Health and higher education, broadcasting, the railways and public utilities, the civil service were either reformed too late for any benefit to be noticeable, or were not reformed at all, leaving only a resentment at what many professions saw as a lack of faith in their work. Labour, for better or worse, has found ways of expressing such faith and is benefiting accordingly.

A more serious obstacle for the Tories lies in the dominant issue at the election, the performance of the economy. Ever since its fateful entry into the European exchange rate mechanism in 1990, the government has seemed to lie recumbent in a straitjacket. There has been much debate over whether that straitjacket needed to be worn so tight. This newspaper and others have said no; more positive moves could have been made to expand consumption and mitigate recession. Now at last industry and commerce appear on the brink of recovery, but this may be too late for the government's salvation.

Can the Tories surmount these obstacles? The answer until recently appeared to be yes. Governments should not be changed for the sake of change if change is for the worse. Democracy in Britain would survive if Mr Kinnock were not to be prime minister next week. An election is to choose the best qualified leader and team for the next five years in a nation's history. It is not about fairness and certainly not about gambles. The central tasks facing government over this period are managing a return to economic growth, a reordering of Britain's relations with its European partners and improvement to the public services.

The Tory prospectus on the last is clear. It is to press on towards greater efficiency, tardily and painfully initiated in the health service. These moves are aimed partly at de facto or de jure privatisation, as with the prisons, the railways, some hospitals, some of the social services. Or they are aimed at using market mechanisms to improve internal incentives to give customers a better service. The tale of Labour's programme is the lack of awareness in its manifesto that anything was seriously wrong with the welfare state it bequeathed the Tories in 1979. Tory direction of public service can easily be criticised, but it has been set on the right course. To dismantle almost all of it, as Labour promises, would be inexcusable.

On managing recovery, Tory policy is equally simple: not to permit the overheating that occurred in 1988-9; not to impose excessive burdens on the private sector; to restrain public spending and to continue a policy of shifting the tax burden from taxes on income and savings to those on expenditure. There may be many a slip 'twixt cup and lip, but these are sensible policies requiring confident implementation. Labour rejects each one either in whole or part.

Integral to such rejection is the divergent approach of the two parties towards Europe. Labour appears to be committed to an extreme Delors position on European union, favouring the Maastricht social chapter, bigger regional and industrial subsidies and probably a single currency. Labour was fiercely opposed to the stand taken by Mr Major at Maastricht. Bluntly, Mr Kinnock would have signed anything Brussels put on the table. He maintains that the British economy will actually be strengthened by the various constraints of the social chapter and economic union, despite the growing doubts of other European states. Mr Kinnock has discovered in European corporatism a grander Jerusalem perhaps than Mr Smith will permit him to build within Britain. For his reactionary vision to guide the British presidency, and all of Europe, later this year is a grim prospect.

These policies, public sector management, the conduct of recovery and the approach to Europe, radically divide the two main parties. It is a divide of ideology and of collective interest rather than of individuals. But John Major is on the right side of that divide. He has emerged during his brief reign as prime minister as a likeable, competent and honest leader of his country. He deserves to be given a first vote of confidence at tomorrow's election.

## Party politics and the case for PR

From Professor Emeritus Ivor Gowan

Sir, Mr Heath is right to call for a parliamentary enquiry into the electoral system (report, April 4, later editions). I do not believe that most Conservatives reject the idea of proportional representation: on the contrary, they are only too conscious of the unfairness and inadequacy of our existing arrangements. Government by consent is generally held to be one of the main prerequisites of democracy, and we have manifestly not been getting this for many decades.

Unfortunately, in spite of the change to a single market at the end of the year, no one has yet been able to devise a system in which output tax paid in one country, say England, can be returned to an importer as input tax in another country, in this case Scotland.

It will therefore be necessary to institute the same VAT paperwork on all commercial transactions across the new frontier between England and Scotland, as is the case on the frontier between the Irish Republic and Northern Ireland. Since the economies of Scotland and England are far more closely integrated than those of any other European neighbours, these frontier posts will be the busiest in Europe.

Do Scots who seek independence, and I have considerable sympathy with this desire, realise that this formidable encumbrance to trade will arise?

Yours faithfully,  
IVOR GOWAN,  
17 Wyndwood Paddocks,  
Charbury, Oxford.

From Mr David Faulk

Sir, "Blackmail" is the word you use in your leading article of April 6 to describe Paddy Ashdown's insistence on a promise of proportional representation before deciding which of the main parties he would choose to make his post-election partner. It is an ugly word. It would surely be better applied to the Tories for threatening us with a socialist government if we do not vote for them while maintaining a voting system which they believe gives the electorate only that limited choice.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID FAULK,  
Sedgemoor House, Church Lane,  
Weston-super-Mare, Somerset.

From Mr Michael S. Moss

Sir, "Cold calling" as a means of selling fixed kitchens and double glazing is bad enough; but to be cold-called, as I was last night, by a political party quoting one of its own surveys in order to encourage tactical voting debates the whole democratic process. The Liberal Democrats should know better.

Yours sincerely,  
MICHAEL S. MOSS,  
6 Kirklee Gardens, Glasgow.  
April 7.

From Mr Chris August

Sir, Election campaigning has been full of discussion about electoral reform. I agree that proportional representation should be closely examined and not introduced as part of a deal between parties; but why is it that none of the politicians have suggested that such a fundamental change in election procedures should as a first step be decided by the electorate in a referendum?

Yours faithfully,  
CHRIS AUGUST,  
8 Trevanion Road, W4.

From Mrs Patricia M. Roberts

Sir, What would proportional representation lead to but a hung parliament — in perpetuity?

Yours etc.,  
PATRICIA M. ROBERTS,  
12 Mansfield Terrace,  
Budleigh Salterton, Devon.

From Lord Grantley

Sir, The interesting article by John Young on April 1 about the superb manor, Ightham Mote in Kent, invites certain comments by the owner of this house, Markenfield, equally modest and built in 1310 or 30 years earlier than Ightham Mote.

The structure of Markenfield is entirely limestone (other than a small amount of the crenellations restored about 1890, also in sandstone) and is almost completely unaltered since its construction in 1310 apart from various inside alterations.

Mr Young reports that there is a restoration programme at Ightham Mote involving no less than £7,500,000. When I inform you that restoration of this house involved me in under 1 per cent of this amount including most helpful advice and

grants from government bodies, involving replacement of a wall of the chapel which was bearing down ominously on the undercroft, I cannot but be bewildered at the difference of some £7,425,000.

Of course there are factors unknown to me, but I must question the quantum when you compare myself as an owner of fairly modest means to an authority such as the National Trust.

I have nothing but praise for the successful work of the National Trust of which my family are members: in fact my architect, Mr J. S. Miller of Harrogate, was recommended to me originally by friends connected with the National Trust.

Yours faithfully,  
GRANTLEY,  
Markenfield Hall,  
Ripon, North Yorkshire.  
April 3.

From Canon Michael Bourdeaux

Sir, Clifford Longley ("Unloved" landmark, April 4) asserts that KGB control of the Russian Orthodox Church never led to the betrayal of "its beliefs, its members or its friends".

Ask Alexander Solzhenitsyn, who was denounced by his own bishop when the KGB was gunning for him. Ask Father Gleb Yakunin, now an elected deputy of the Russian parliament, whose betrayal by his own church leadership when he exposed religious persecution in 1965 facilitated the campaign against him, resulting in a ten-year sentence.

Or you could ask me. Patriarch Alexi I denounced me to the Arch-

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

### Pros and cons of devolution issue

From Mr A. C. B. Tidmarsh

Sir, As I understand it the proponents of an independent Scotland envisage that it should be a member of the EC. Since it is a condition of membership that member states should pay a proportion of VAT receipts to Brussels, it follows that Scotland would have to continue with this tax.

Unfortunately, in spite of the change to a single market at the end of the year, no one has yet been able to devise a system in which output tax paid in one country, say England, can be returned to an importer as input tax in another country, in this case Scotland.

It will therefore be necessary to institute the same VAT paperwork on all commercial transactions across the new frontier between England and Scotland, as is the case on the frontier between the Irish Republic and Northern Ireland. Since the economies of Scotland and England are far more closely integrated than those of any other European neighbours, these frontier posts will be the busiest in Europe.

Do Scots who seek independence, and I have considerable sympathy with this desire, realise that this formidable encumbrance to trade will arise?

Yours faithfully,  
TONY TIDMARSH,  
The White House, Dunley,  
Stourport-on-Severn,  
Worcestershire.  
April 5.

From Lord Kilmaine

Sir, The prospect of devolution must pose a dilemma for peers of Scotland: a backward-looking policy of pointless self-destruction in pursuit of sentimental tartan egoism.

At this election, there is only one party that stands unequivocally for Great Britain and the United Kingdom — the Conservative party. I will vote for it.

Yours faithfully,  
RICHARD ALLEN,  
Hazel Rough, Hartfield, Sussex.  
April 6.

From Mr Brian Lynch

Sir, As a member of the United Kingdom for over 50 years (English branch), I hope that if Mr Kinnock offers a referendum on Scottish/ Welsh devolution, and its consequences, we will all have a vote in it — if he gets the chance to, that is.

Yours etc.,  
BRIAN LYNCH,  
3 Marlborough Road,  
Brentwood, Essex.

From Mr Michael Grosvenor Myer

Sir, You say in your leader (April 6) on the Elgin Marbles: "If by freak of history the Stone of Scone was held abroad the Scots would rightly assert a claim."

Well, it is: it's in England.

Yours truly,  
MICHAEL GROSVENOR MYER,  
34 West End,  
Haddenham, Cambridge.  
April 6.

From Professor Emeritus P. Rhodes

Sir, Although the American gynaecologist, Professor Gerson Weiss, may believe that Charlotte Brontë died not from hyperemesis gravidarum (morning sickness) but from Addison's disease (report, March 31), Mrs Gaskell records that "Martha ... tried to cheer her with the thought of the baby that was coming". That seems conclusive enough, for women, even of last century, knew about early symptoms in pregnancy, especially the absence of menstruation and breast signs.

Obviously the hypothesis of Addison's disease cannot be ruled out, but that of pregnancy sickness seems still to be the more likely.

Yours sincerely,  
PHILIP RHODES,  
1 Wakerley Court, Wakerley,  
Oakham, Leicestershire.  
April 6.

From Mr Raymond O'Malley

Sir, TV "semi-biographies" have opened up depths of vulgarity that F. R. Leavis could never have imagined. Sunday's TV show (review, March 28) depicted Mrs Leavis as embittered. She had good reason to be: when she married Leavis her family rejected her; some years later a single bomb of Hitler's killed the family. Mrs Leavis herself developed a fatal illness against which she fought bravely. Who could have escaped some bitterness in such circumstances?

I knew the family intimately from 1929 until the end and see the broadcast as an utter travesty of their relationship. Leavis was incomparably the greatest teacher who ever came my way.

Yours truly,  
RAYMOND O'MALLEY,  
23 Nightingale Avenue, Cambridge.  
March 30.

From Mr Graham Chainey

Sir, The title of the BBC film about F. R. Leavis and "Q", *The Last Romantic* invites the question just how many last romantics there have been.

According to the title of his authorised biography (1948) Sir John Martin-Harvey was *The Last Romantic*. So, according to their own biographers, were Max Eastman (1978) and Queen Marie of Romania (1985). A television film in 1985 was called *Vladimir Horowitz: The Last Romantic*, while *The Last Romantic* is the title of a novel by Caroline Seebohm set in 1960s Oxford; not to mention W. B. Yeats. And you illustrated (*Life & Times*, March 31) the Barbican Gallery's 1989 exhibition, "The Last Romantics".

Seemingly yours,  
GRAHAM CHAINEY,  
17 Marine Parade,  
Brighton, East Sussex.

### Justice abroad not seen to be done

From Mr E. W. Smith

Sir, I was distressed by the letter from the Foreign Office minister, Mr Mark Lennox-Boyd (March 28), attacking Mr Stephen Jakobi who had written to you (March 26) in his capacity as spokesman for Fair Trials Abroad.

Mr Jakobi is probably best known to the public as being the solicitor to my daughter, Karyn Smith, arrested with Patricia Cahill on a drugs charge in Bangkok, 21 months ago. Karyn is at present in prison in Thailand, and though the European Parliament has expressed "deep concern" that she was "wrongly convicted", it took a public outcry to get her any government support (reports, May 22, September 12, October 25, November 18 and 21, 1991).

Mr Lennox-Boyd argues that no representation can be made until the possibility of appeals has been exhausted and that this does not apply to any of the cases in which Mr Jakobi had "so far shown an interest". My daughter abandoned her appeal nearly a year ago. This single fact makes Mr Jakobi's point.

Yours faithfully,  
E. W. SMITH,  
46 Foredrove Lane,  
Danson Wood,  
Solihull, West Midlands.  
March 28.

From Mrs Frances M. Benn

Sir, On March 4, 1991, my son Christopher, an airline pilot, was arrested on a charge of rape, having been tricked off his British aircraft in Toulouse. He was told that there was an urgent telephone call for him; when he stepped off the plane, in order to answer it, he was arrested, handcuffed and taken off to Martinique under the most humiliating circumstances.

Christopher was put in jail for five weeks with a condemned murderer. No help was forthcoming for legal aid. Although not a wealthy woman myself, I was forced to find £35,000 in French francs to get him released on bail. The charge made against him has since been dropped, and he is now being held on a charge of "force and surprise".

My son had nothing but praise for the honorary consul in Martinique in the period immediately following his arrest: nor do I believe (as Mr Lennox-Boyd suggests is Mr Jakobi's belief) that the government should intervene "at whim" in other countries' legal procedures. However, I do believe that members of the EC should conform to international procedures with regard to extradition.

Christopher was arrested off British territory, by trickery. He is no fugitive from justice — he would have gone willingly to Martinique to clear his name — and his extradition from Britain could and should have been effected by the use of established procedures.

Why did the Foreign Office allow those procedures to go by default? Why did it not challenge the lawfulness of his arrest?

Yours faithfully,  
FRANCES BENN,  
Meadswood, Loddon Drive,  
Wargrave, Reading, Berkshire.  
March 30.

### Twilight zone

From Mr Raymond O'Malley

Sir, TV "semi-biographies" have opened up depths of vulgarity that F. R. Leavis could never have imagined. Sunday's TV show (review, March 28) depicted Mrs Leavis as embittered. She had good reason to be: when she married Leavis her family rejected her; some years later a single bomb of Hitler's killed the family. Mrs Leavis herself developed a fatal illness against which she fought bravely. Who could have escaped some bitterness in such circumstances?

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March 30.

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Seemingly yours,  
GRAHAM CHAINEY,  
17 Marine Parade,  
Brighton, East Sussex.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.







## OBITUARIES

## JACK ADIE

Jack Jesson Adie, CMG, former colonial administrator in Zanzibar and Kenya, died on March 27 aged 78. He was born on May 1, 1913.

JACK Adie was a leading member of the colonial administration in Kenya in the period preceding independence in December 1963. During the 12 years that he spent there, which covered those of the Mau Mau emergency in the 1950s, he served in almost every government department, ending up as permanent secretary for labour.

He first went there in 1951 and after filling several posts in the departments for education, labour and lands, left Africa in 1957 to become the chief secretary in Barbados. On the formation of the short-lived West Indian Federation in the following year, however, he returned to Kenya as permanent secretary for forest development, game and fisheries.

This was at a time when people throughout the West as well as in Africa were starting to appreciate the threat to wild life caused by



Indiscriminate killing and intensive farming. Adie found himself in the forefront of this movement, partly responsible for husbanding Kenya's rich animal resources, and in later years he came to regard this period as the most rewarding of his time there.

His Kenyan experience, however, represented only the second half of his career. Most of the first half, between 1938 and 1948, was spent in Zanzibar where his posts included those of private secretary to the Sultan and to the British resident. He was awarded the Brilliant Star of Zanzibar 4th class before he left.

This period also included

military service during the war as a private in the Kenya regiment, then as a subaltern in the King's African Rifles. For part of the time he was on secondment in Ethiopia, where he served as personal assistant to the Emperor Haile Selassie's military/political adviser.

Although he spent most of his career in East Africa, Jack Adie came from the heartland of England, near Birmingham, where his family owned a well-established and nationally reputed firm of silversmiths. The company eventually closed in the early 1950s, one of its last commissions being a commemorative salver for the Queen on her accession to the throne in 1952.

Adie went to Shrewsbury School, then Magdalen College, Oxford, where he took a degree in modern and English literature. He also won a tennis blue, played five for the university and was awarded his tennis colours for Warwickshire. He entered the colonial service after taking a first class pass in the administrative civil service course.

After leaving Kenya in 1964 he was attached for five years to the Ministry of Overseas Development in London before finally retiring in 1969. He and his wife then became "sixpenny settlers" in Malta, joining a large number of other returning British expatriates who were tempted to the island by an income tax concession of sixpence in the pound. Adie returned to Britain in the late 1970s shortly after the death of his wife.

While in Zanzibar he wrote a number of monographs, copies of which are now kept in the country's national museum. They included one on bull-fighting in East Africa, another on the Zanzibar national anthem and a third on the traditional, brass-decorated Arab doors. The last of these has been incorporated in the Zanzibar official guide.

On returning from Malta as a widower in Britain, however, he embarked on a self-appointed task which almost created its own lifestyle. Always a lover of opera, he set himself the target of seeing 600 different operatic works. His quest took him on a musical odyssey throughout the world, to Australasia, as well as all over Europe and North America. He made it though. He had seen 601 by the time he died.

Jack Adie is survived by two daughters and a son.

## Bep van Klaveren

BEP van Klaveren, a Dutch boxer whose fast and furious style earned him the nickname "The Dutch Windmill", has died aged 84. Dutch boxing commentators rated him as one of the best the country had produced. "more a demolition man than a boxer" was the verdict of the Dutch national daily paper, *Algemeen Dagblad*, reporting on his death.

Van Klaveren was the only Dutch boxer ever to win an Olympic gold medal; he was placed first in the featherweight division at the 1928 games in Amsterdam. He also held the European light-

weight and middleweight titles at various times during the 1930s.

Van Klaveren was a fighter in the old style, aggressive and hard punching, continually moving forward and relying chiefly on his footwork rather than his hands for defence.

He toured extensively in the United States and Australia in the 1930s and 1940s, but he was never granted the world championship challenge he so obviously merited by American boxing authorities.

He finally retired from the ring at the age of 48, after losing a European championship challenge to Idriss Dionne, a French fighter half his age.

## Supper

Francis-British Society The annual meeting and supper of the Francis-British Society was held last night at the RAF Club. The Marquess of Lansdowne, president, was in the chair and presented the Enid McLeod literary prize to Mr Frank Giles and the Landscape Gardening award to Mrs Marie-Louise Hemphill. President-elect, Lord of Les Amis du Jardin Shakespeare, Paris, M. Michel Lumaux, Cultural Counsellor at the French Embassy, was the guest speaker and Sir Reginald Hibbert, chairman of the society, also spoke.

## Birthdays today

Mr Hywel Bennett, actor, 48; General Sir Anthony Farrar-Hockley, 68; Mr J.P. Kavanagh, racehorse trainer, 49; Sir Neil Lawson, former High Court judge, 84; Air Commandant Dame Alice Lowrey, former marm-in-chief, PMRAFNS, 87; Mrs Mary Moore, former principal, St Hilja's College, Oxford, 62; Mr W. Garth Morrison, Chief Scout, 49; Mr Eric Porter, actor, 94; Mr Ian Smith, former Prime Minister of Rhodesia, 73; Professor Maurice Stacey, chemist, 85; Sir Thomas Thomson, chairman, Greater Glasgow Health Board, 69; Miss Dorothy Tuin, actress, 61.

## Luncheon

First Day Cover Club Mr Cliff Morgan was the guest of honour at a luncheon of the First Day Cover Club held yesterday at the RAF Club to mark the issue of the Europa 92 stamps, including a special stamp honouring the British Paralympics team. Mr Keith McDowell presided. Among those present were: Mr Colin Pearson, Mr Anthony Welch, Mr Alan Tullin, Mr Alan Johnson, Mr David Evans, Mr Iain Jones, Mrs Clare Reid and Mr Derrick Meade.

## Classical Association

## How man's best friend avoided the cooking pot

BY PHILIP HOWARD

FOOD and sex were topics that occupied the Classical Association at its annual meeting in Oxford yesterday. These are ancient human preoccupations. And the classicists went back to their roots.

Dr Robert Sallares of Manchester examined how our modern attitudes towards animals were formed by our remote ancestors. Neanderthal man emerged from the ice ages hungry, and eating any kind of meat that moved. Gradually man formed cultural prejudices about what to do with different animals. It is a mere accident of history that in the United Kingdom we eat pigs, but not generally dogs, horses, or insects. In fact the human body produces an enzyme whose only function is to break down the flesh of insects. So there is nothing unnatural about eating them; except for our history and conditioning.

If an animal could not be integrated into an ancient economy, it became suspect, and regarded as unclean

meat. This explains that taboo on pig (a bad trotter at the best of times) in nomadic societies. Dogs gradually became forbidden meat for the opposite reason, because they became man's best friend. Europeans have been making animals into pets for forty centuries. Some animals, like horses and cows, became taboo for eating because they were too valuable, as cows still are in India. A Roman was prosecuted for murder for killing an ox.

Of all our ancestors the Egyptians have the strangest relation to animals, making their Gods in the image of animals, even those scavengers, the jackal and the dung beetle. Only the poor old hippopotamus was not deemed sacred. This lecture, combined with Magdalen cuisine, was enough to turn a sensitive man vegan.

Mr Ken Dowden of Birmingham University took the conference back to the ancient European wars between the sexes, represented by the proto-feminist Ama-

zonas. These are the wild warrior women with female bodies but unfeminine natures. The notion that they cut off their right breasts to make it easier to throw javelins is probably just foolish folk etymology. In art they have two breasts. Women rule, OK? but why is the removal of only one breast a denial of femininity? And why in the myth is there no race of men who have removed one testicle?

In the myths the only good Amazon was a dead one. Their function in life is to fight, and have their breasts removed (as for sex, and childbirth) and die. Mr Dowden reckons that the point of the myth of the Amazons was to reinforce gender roles in a male society. Greek girls were allowed to race and hunt, perform military dances and, as a rite of passage while they were maidens. When they married, Amazons had to die. That is, they had to settle down at home as invisible little women, and have babies.

## Memorial service

The Right Rev C.R. Claxton The Lord Lieutenant of Lancashire was represented by Mr Michael Fitzherbert-Brookhouse, Vice-Lord Lieutenant, at a service of thanksgiving for the life of the Right Rev Charles Robert Claxton held yesterday in Blackburn Cathedral. The Provost of Blackburn officiated. Mr Simon Claxton, son, read the lesson and Mr David Claxton, son, read from the works of Canon Henry Scott Holland. The Archdeacon of Blackburn gave an address and the Bishop of Blackburn pronounced the blessing.

The Bishop of Liverpool, the Bishop of Warrington and the Right Rev J.W. Rotherham were robed and in the Sanctuary.

## Latest wills

Dame Gwen Frangson-Davies, the classical actress who frequently appeared with Sir John Gielgud, left estate valued at £116,124 net. She left just under £80,000 to personal beneficiaries and the remainder to charity and other groups. She died in January aged 101.

Jean Eleanor Batters, of Eastbourne, East Sussex, left estate valued at £708,169 net. She left personal legacies of £25,000, all her pictures to the Tower Art Gallery, Eastbourne, and the residue to the Actors' Charitable Trust.

Mrs Violet Marion Keil, of Broadway, Hereford and Worcester, left estate valued at £2,109,394 net. Lady Elizabeth Agnes Mary Weld, of Lutworth Manor, Wareham, Dorset, wife of Sir Joseph Weld, former Lord Lieutenant of Dorset and chair-

man of Wessex regional health authority, left estate valued at £434,952 net. Other estates include (net, before tax paid): Mr Francis Albert James Vincent, of Tones, Devon, £1,142,105. Mrs Phyllis Mary Woolfenden, of Howe, East Sussex, £1,420,188. Mr John Edwin Branstetter, of Chippenham, Wiltshire, £1,167,948. Mr Stephen Cannon, of Hampstead, £1,492,527. Mrs Marian Jackson, of Weston Underwood, Buckinghamshire, £1,197,643. Mr Eric Alfred Brannell, of Kensington, £1,188,538. Mr Peter Richard Hager, of Bayswater, £1,344,651. Mrs Josephine Naomi Pears, of Regent's Park, £1,457,121.

## Church news

## Resignations and retirements

The Rev Canon Bernard Brown, Bishop of Social and Industrial Adviser and Team Leader (Bristol) to retire as from June 30.

The Rev Canon John Cockerton, Rector, Wheldrake with Thorngay (York) to retire as from September 30.

The Rev Peter Jefford, Rector, Radford Team Ministry (Exeter) to retire as from May 31.

The Rev John Newton, Rector, St Peter and St Paul, Todwick (Sheffield) to retire as from April 30.

The Rev John Schofield, Vicar, Stoke Gabriel and Collaton St Mary (Exeter) to retire as from June 30.

## SAM WALTON



the stock soared as Wall Street noted an unbroken pattern of high profits and fast growth. From 1981 to 1991 the shares produced an average annual return of 46.8 per cent, and an investment of \$3,000 in 1981 is today worth \$170,000. Last year the chain passed Sears Roebuck and Co to become America's largest retailer, serving its stores from 19 cavernous distribution centres, each with six miles of rack space, 2,000 trucks and a fleet of aircraft.

Until recent months, when he finally succumbed to a long-running battle with hairy-cell leukaemia and multiple myeloma, Walton continued to fly his own twin-engine aircraft from town to town, often visiting as many as six of his stores in a single day. He was far from being a remote tycoon. In 1983, after Wal-Mart's profits exceeded expectations, he

kept a promise to his employees by putting on a grass skirt and dancing a hula in the middle of Wall Street. Walton surrendered active control of the company to a team of hand-picked senior executives in 1988, though he remained chairman until his death. Financial experts do not expect his loss to affect the continued success of Wal-Mart, which Walton had planned to have sales exceeding \$100 billion by the turn of the century.

Last month Walton was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, America's highest civilian honour. He was commended as "an American original, embodying the entrepreneurial spirit and epitomising the American dream."

He is survived by his wife, three sons and a daughter.

## KARL TUNBERG



Karl Tunberg, Hollywood screenwriter, died in Putney on April 4 aged 83. He was born in Spokane, Washington, on March 11, 1909.

KARL Tunberg was a true Hollywood professional. Whatever the star, whatever the genre, Tunberg would deliver the appropriate goods: airy musical comedy for *Beau Brummell* (1954), Mongol tough talk for *Tarzan Bulba* (1962). He first worked in Hollywood in 1937 and over the space of three decades put words into the mouths of Betty Grable, Alice Faye, Glenn Miller, Sonja Henie, Mario Lanza, Robert Taylor, Charlton Heston, Yul Brynner and Doris Day.

MGM's prestigious remake of *Ben Hur*, released in 1959, gave him the chance to work on something more substantial than light entertainment, though the chariot race has a stronger grip on the memory than the dialogue.

He wrote his script early in the 1950s for the producer Sam Zimbalist, carving a clear-cut narrative from Lew Wallace's blockbuster novel

about an aristocratic Jew's troubles during the time of Christ. Distinguished writers like Maxwell Anderson, Gore Vidal and, especially, Christopher Fry were drafted to iron out colloquial phrases and buff the lines with literary polish: "Did you enjoy your dinner?", for instance, became, in Fry's hands, "Was the food to your liking?"

Fry's contribution fuelled a controversy. Although Tunberg readily agreed to share the writing credit with Fry, the Screen Writers Guild (for whom Tunberg had served as president) adjudged

Tunberg the sole writer. In 1960 the film was nominated for twelve Academy Awards, including Best Adapted Screenplay. Significantly or not, this was the only category where the Oscar failed to materialise.

Tunberg had held the Screen Writers Guild's presidency in 1951: a difficult year. The House Un-American Activities Committee, dedicated to communism's eradication, was burrowing feverishly into Hollywood writers' private lives. To safeguard the guild's status and forestall further enquiries, Tunberg, an apolitical liberal, was authorised by the guild's board to provide committee investigators with all records of union meetings. Writers who appeared as "unfriendly" witnesses did so without the guild's official support.

Otherwise, Tunberg's career proved busy but uneventful. He went to Hollywood after teaching experience, berthing first at Twentieth Century Fox. Glossy musicals were an early speciality: along with *Down Argentine Way* (1940), with Betty Grable and Carmen Miranda warbling away, he

worked on *My Gal Sal* (1942) and *Orchestra Wives* (1942). At Paramount, a few years later, he produced several of his own scripts: *Kitty* (1945), with Paulette Goddard and Ray Milland, directed by Mitchell Leisen, a succulently staged drama about a guttersnipe-turned-duck in Gainsborough's London, was much admired and considered quite racy in its day. Then MGM and *Ben Hur* beckoned.

In the 1960s, Tunberg's output dwindled, mirroring the collapse of the Hollywood studio system. He worked on several British films, including an unbuzzed melodrama, *I Thank a Fool* (1962), and *The Seventh Dawn* (1964), a romantic farce, directed by Lewis Gilbert, into the Mexican jungle. Eventually he settled in London.

## APPRECIATIONS

## Prince George Galitzine



GEORGE Galitzine (obituary, April 2) was a romantic figure whose love of Russia almost transcended that of his adopted country. Increasingly he was to spend more and more time amongst the splendours of his family's past, a dispossessed nobleman playing the grand dragoman (under the watchful eye of the KGB) to successive waves of English tourists. His usual stance, as many who accompanied him will recall, was at the back of the party explaining to his devotees, that what the tourist guide was saying was total rubbish! And then giving his own version laced with family anecdotes.

I first knew George when I was a schoolboy and he a White Russian refugee, his family having lost everything in the Revolution. Years later on a magical night in June I remember George sitting with my wife and me in the garden facing the Michael Palace in St Petersburg (or Leningrad then) talking deep into the night about the old days; how his family acquired this palace; the cause and meaning of the Revolution; and emergent "Perestroika". And then a visit to the forbidden Palace of Oranienbaum (supposed to be occupied by "research chemists"), which had been his mother's former home.

On an impulse George makes off towards the grandiose garden stairs ascending in sweeping flights to the front of the palace. A lone figure in this phantasmagoria of architecture. He rattles

a glass door in an attempt to open it and see what is going on inside. All he sees is a man in a white coat, confirming his worst fears. He then told us the story of his mother's former ladies' maid, who suddenly turned up in England in 1935, the family having left in 1915 when his father, Prince Vladimir, joined his regiment at the Front. "Oh, yes, milady," she remarked, "I was at Oranienbaum not so long ago, and your dresses are still hanging up in the cupboard where you left them."

George's sad death will be another link gone with this long-forgotten world.

Sir Carol Mather

YOUR obituary of Prince George Galitzine prompted me to look out my copy of the July 1934 school photograph of St Paul's, in which Galitzine - and another boy called Charlton - appeared twice, at each end, having sprinted round the back and beaten the clockwork panoramic camera.

Hubert Darke

## Yves Rocard

TO YOUR summary (March 23) of Yves Rocard's scientific work, I wish to add his contribution to research in support of treaties to ban nuclear weapons tests. He represented France at the "Geneva Conference of Experts" in 1958 when ways and means for detecting violations by the explosions geophysical effects in space, the atmosphere and underground were evaluated.

It was while conducting me on a tour of his seismological network, designed to verify underground tests in the presence of earthquakes, that he introduced me to experimental water divining. The station in the Morvan, south of Paris, suffered a water supply problem. Yves Rocard

produced a pair of whale bones, fastened at one end with insulating tape, and proceeded to survey the area. Sensing a septic, he invited me to walk alongside his Citroën, my forearm held in tension by the forked whale bones. I was unable to prevent the violent swing of the device as I walked past the engine. Rocard explained his hypothesis of "bio-magnetism" and described his experiments with small magnets attached to the forearms of his students.

Yves Rocard's lively sense of humour would have been amusing to see Admenagion engineers seeking a water main under the lawn of my laboratory by means of a hazel twig.

Hal Thirlaway

## Norman Bruce

NORMAN Bruce (obituary, April 1) and I played together for Blackheath in their century year 1957-58, but later we were also colleagues at Prestfield Prep School, Shrewsbury, where Norman put in sterling service as a teacher after his army career ended. He was greatly loved by the boys there, to whom he taught woodwork, fly-fishing and fly-fishing, as well as

coaching them to a high standard of rugby.

He was also a very committed Christian and served both his home parish and our chapel well. Our processional cross, pews and other church furnishings will continue to testify to both his skill as a carpenter and the deep faith which sustained him over these last courageous months.

The Rev John Waddington-Feather

## April 8 ON THIS DAY 1925



Though traffic on the roads in 1925 was comparatively light, headlights were seen to be a problem. However, the switching off of headlights when two cars met was not seen to be a very good idea. Lord Montagu of Beaulieu (1866-1929) was a pioneer of motoring in England. He was the father of the present peer.

## "DAZZLE" HEADLIGHTS. VIEWS OF MOTORISTS.

Controversy has again arisen among motorists as to the advisability of switching off powerful headlights when meeting other motor vehicles with similar lighting equipment. So long ago as 1903 the question of danger from dazzling headlights was receiving the attention of the Royal Automobile Club, and experiments were made with the various devices to see if the trouble caused by glaring lights could be remedied. These early devices were crude in character and did not come into effective use. Since the war the number of cars on the roads has greatly increased and the dazzle difficulty has become more acute. It seemed likely in 1923 that the Ministry of Transport would take action, but experts like Lord Montagu of Beaulieu urged that the Department and the automobile bodies who had the matter in hand should not legislate in a hurry, and the discretion of motorists is still unrestricted by regulations.

As the position stands at present the Ministry of Transport is contemplating the introduction into Parliament, possibly during this session, of a Road Vehicles Bill, and in this the Minister may seek to obtain powers to issue regulations in respect of the more powerful kind of headlights. Taking powers is one thing,

however, and the framing of satisfactory regulations is another, and it is unlikely that the technical advisers of the Minister will propose the imposition of hard-and-fast rules without a full consideration of the progress made with the evolution of "anti-dazzle" lamps or devices any of the generally admitted danger to other users of the roads caused by the sudden switching off of headlights. A demonstration, arranged by the Royal Automobile Club, of "anti-dazzle" inventions was held in Richmond Park in February, and devices produced by about 50 separate firms then received a trial. The tests showed that the manufacturers were advancing slowly towards a solution of the problem, but motorists were not convinced that a really satisfactory lamp had been found. Since then the RAC has received further applications for trials, and it is clear that the manufacturers are giving close attention to the subject.

Meanwhile, motorists are troubled by the confusion created as the result of conflicting views as to whether lights should be kept on or shut off when cars are about to meet in the dark. The majority of drivers have now adopted the conclusion of the committee of the Royal Automobile Club that switching off headlights when passing other vehicles with powerful lamps is a dangerous practice. The chief drawback to a sudden diminution of illumination of the road is that drivers are unable to adapt themselves immediately to the change of lighting. This leads to a risk of losing, momentarily, a correct sense of direction, and also of running down pedestrians or cyclists.

The question of "dazzle" is only one of a number concerned with lighting as it affects the motorist. Car owners are asking, for instance, for improvements of street lighting, and Captain E. H. Fryer, the head of the Road Department of the Automobile Association, has urged that there is need of a national standard of lighting.







TODAY IN BUSINESS

TAX BLUES

Richard Jeffrey argues that Labour's tax proposals would hit the families with crippling mortgages, who are critical to Britain's housing market  
Page 25

MORE BOOKS

St Ives, the printer, believes Labour would spend more on education, and it hopes to print the extra textbooks  
Tempos, page 22

WELL DRESSED

NEXT

Next, the retail group that collapsed after aggressive expansion, is making a profit and has resumed dividend payments  
Page 23

GOOD RETURNS

A development bank run by civil servants has made £44 million profit on a £2 million investment in Hong Kong  
Page 23

POWER BASE

PowerGen, the electricity generator, plans to negotiate pay deals with all unions at the same time instead of in three batches  
Page 23

THE POUND

US dollar 1.7463 (-0.0049)  
German mark 2.8433 (+0.0072)  
Exchange index 90.1 (+0.1)  
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 1865.3 (+6.1)  
FT-SE 100 2404.2 (+3.3)  
New York Dow Jones 3270.57 (-4.92)  
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 17791.55 (-644.82)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base 10 1/4%  
3-month interbank 10 1/4%  
3-month eligible bills 10 1/4%  
US: Prime Rate 6 1/4%  
Federal Funds 3 1/4%  
3-month Treasury Bills 3.88-3.87%  
30-year bonds 10 1/2-10 1/4%

CURRENCIES

London: New York  
£ \$1.7504  
DM £2.8426  
Sfr £2.5107  
FF £6.5245  
Yen £233.24  
Index 90.1  
ECU £0.717538  
SDR £0.788104  
SDR 1.360654  
London forex market close

GOLD

London Fixing:  
AM \$338.50 pm \$338.75  
close \$337.80-338.30 (£193.00-193.50)  
New York:  
Comex \$337.75-338.25

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (May) ... \$18.50 bbl (\$18.95)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 136.3 February (1987=100)  
\* Denotes mtday trading price

Stores chief campaigns against rises

# Tesco to fight banks' plastic card charges

By Gillian Bowditch and Neil Bennett

BRITAIN'S big retailers are bracing themselves for a confrontation with the clearing banks over increased charges for handling direct debit and credit card transactions.

Tesco, Britain's second-largest supermarket group, which yesterday announced a 25 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £546 million, gave warning that it would strongly resist the increases, which came into effect on April 1. There was also a veiled threat from Tesco that if charges did not come down the group may consider suspending the direct debit system it has spent £20 million installing.

Sir Ian MacLaurin, Tesco's chairman, accused the banks of unilaterally increasing charges without negotiations to an unsupportable level. He said: "We believe the banks are behaving disgracefully. They have deeply upset us. We intend to take a firm line and we are not alone."

David Malpas, managing director at Tesco, said the group had written to the Office of Fair Trading about what it perceives as a cartel. Tesco is fighting the changes via the British Retailers Association. Mr Malpas said 20 per cent of Tesco's sales are paid for by direct debit with cards such as Switch and Connect.

Bank charges for processing a direct debit transaction have doubled in some cases and trebled in others, he said. Typically, a large retail group pays 6p for processing a direct debit transaction. From April 1 the charge has risen to 12p and in some cases 18p.

The group is also unhappy about a rise in credit-card transaction handling fees. These increased from 1 per cent of the item sale price to 1.1 per cent and are set to rise to 1.3 per cent next year.

However, the banks are

poised to stand firm. Green, the general manager of Switch UK, said: "Retailers recognise that Switch is a great product, but they do not want to pay for it." He said Switch charges are rising because card issuers were demanding more money for guaranteeing payments.

Barclays, Britain's largest credit and debit card issuer and transaction processor, said credit card fees had fallen substantially since 1989 and the bank had lost money on the business in the past two years.

A spokeswoman said: "Retailers have seen the benefits of plastic cards. There are 45 million cards in Britain and they are a powerful spending force. The retailers are tough negotiators but we need to be tough as well because we need to make these charges realistic."

Tesco unveiled a strong set of figures yesterday despite the recession, which affected sales in the second-half last year.

Turnover increased 12.9 per cent to £7.6 billion and pre-tax profits grew 25.1 per cent to £546 million. Fully-diluted earnings per share grew 20.2 per cent to 19.95p and the final dividend is 4.3p, making 6.3p for the year, an increase of 20 per cent. The



Malpas: complaint

group is serving 500,000 customers every Sunday at 200 stores and Sir Ian said there was a huge demand for Sunday shopping. The recession appears to be easing and the group's performance has improved steadily since the low point in November, he said.

Tesco has increased its market share from 9.4 per cent to 9.6 per cent. Twenty-four new stores were opened last year, at a cost of £700 million, and 28 are due to open this year.

These should create 7,000 jobs. The group is experimenting with a new small store format, Tesco Metro, and one is due to open in London's Covent Garden shortly.

Sir Ian, whose pay came under fire after last year's report and accounts showed he earned £1.48 million, more than £1 million of which was profit-related, said this year's report would show a sharp fall in director's emoluments.

He said the group made no political donations last year. "We are apolitical but my top priorities for the economy are control of inflation, control of interest rates, retaining management talent in the UK and the generation of real jobs including encouragement of foreign investment."

Mr Malpas said the group made a spirited defence of its profit margins before a House of Commons select committee.

"Consumers in the UK have to spend a much smaller proportion of their disposable income on food compared to their counterparts in other developed countries."

"Our prices are lower than they were in 1985. Consumers in this country get an astonishingly good deal compared to their counterparts on the Continent," he said.

Tempos, page 22



Where there's brass: Richard Holland, at the group's London factory, after announcing a rise in profits

## Recovery in world growth likely to be more modest

THE improvement in world economic conditions that was to speed up recovery in Britain this year is likely to be more modest than previously expected, according to the latest assessment by two key international organisations.

Jean-Claude Paye, secretary general of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, said yesterday that the Paris-based organization of the leading 24 industrial economies could revise down slightly its growth forecast for 1992. Its last forecast, published in December, put growth in the real national product in the OECD area at 2.2 per cent this year, up from 1.1 per cent in 1991. For 1993, the OECD predicted 3.3 per cent growth. M. Paye, speaking in Bonn, said the revision could come at the forthcoming OECD ministerial meeting on May 18-19.

The International Monetary Fund in Washington has, meanwhile, downgraded its forecast for global growth too. Washington sources said

growth in the industrial world was now expected to reach only 2 per cent this year, compared with the 2.8 per cent foreseen last October. After "lacklustre" growth performance this year, the IMF board expects a pick-up to 3.25 per cent in 1993. America, whose recovery has yet to become firmly established, is seen leading the world recovery, expanding 1.5 per cent this year and 3.5 per cent next.

European growth is expected to be slower. But Germany, the regional powerhouse, is forecast to accelerate to 3.25 per cent next year from 1.25 per cent growth in 1992. The world as a whole, including the developing nations, is expected to grow more slowly than the industrial world, but speed up in 1993. Dissenting voices at the IMF believe that even the downgraded growth prognosis could still be over-optimistic. They remain concerned that consumer confidence will continue to be constrained by the debt overhang in

America and persistent high interest rates in Europe. But he acknowledged that many people were concerned about the outlook for the world economy despite the fund's forecast of a pick-up next year. Despite his warning of slower growth, M. Paye made clear that he still expects general recovery in the OECD area during the second half of this year. The downward revision for the whole year reflected the delayed start to the pick-up in activity. He drew attention to the serious constraints that limit OECD countries' room for fiscal manoeuvre. Further increases in budget deficits could stoke inflation and hinder nascent recovery, he said.

Following poor American jobs data last week, Wall Street has again become unsure about the durability of the American recovery. But M. Paye added the OECD's weight to the view that the American recovery is already under way.

Comment, page 25

## Boosey & Hawkes in tune

MUSIC publishing and instrument making sound an improbable counter to world-wide recession. But the combination has proved effective at Boosey & Hawkes, which enjoyed a 23.6 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £4 million.

Richard Holland, the chief executive, said: "We have not seen any effect of recession on the publishing business so far — including the first quarter of the current year. But we do expect to see some slow-down... this year." The publishing division's operating profits rose 31 per cent to £3.5 million.

Instrument making has been more affected by recession, although operating profits rose 13 per cent to £3.1 million, with sales to Japan and the Far East enhanced by the strong yen. However, Mr Holland said the British market had been one of the worst affected. To help remedy a rise in stocks of unsold instruments, nine jobs are to be shed at the group's brass factory at Edgware, London. A final dividend of 14.5p (12.4p) makes a total of 20p (16.4p).

## Virani steps down at Control Securities

By Neil Bennett, Banking Correspondent

NAZMU Virani, the entrepreneur who is facing a charge of false accounting, has stepped down as chairman and chief executive of Control Securities, the property and leisure group.

The announcement came on the day Mr Virani was released on bail of £1.25 million at the City of London magistrates court. Bail was put up in three sureties. Two, of £500,000 each, were made by Mr Virani's brothers Zul and Silu. The remainder was offered by Narinder Chadha, a family friend.

Mr Virani must surrender his passport, visit Rochester Row police station twice a week and remain based at his home in Putney, south London. The case was adjourned until July 7.

Control Securities, Mr Virani's main company, said that he had decided to step

down "pending the resolution of the current Serious Fraud Office investigations into his private affairs". Mr Virani will continue to act as a non-executive director, and his two brothers remain in their positions as executive directors. Mr Virani and his family still control 12 per cent of the group's shares.

Control has promoted Sydney Robin, a non-executive director, to become chairman until the group makes a permanent appointment. Mr Robin was previously a deputy managing director of Great Universal Stores.

A statement from Control emphasised that the company was not under investigation itself and that the SFO enquiries, which is connected with the Bank of Credit and Commerce International, were focused on Mr Virani's private affairs.

## Japan fears Nikkei has further to fall

From Joanna Pitman in Tokyo

AS TOKYO share prices fell sharply yesterday and the Nikkei 225 index slipped to a five-year low of 17,791.55, worries were voiced by Finance Ministry and ruling Liberal Democratic Party officials that the market still has some way to go before a significant rebound is possible.

Shigeki Morinobu, a finance ministry official, said: "We have taken all short-term measures possible, including lowering the official discount rate to 3.75 per cent and implementing a package of emergency economic measures to boost the economy. Neither seems to have had the desired effect of boosting the stock market." He added that suggested long-term measures, such as allowing companies to buy their own shares or removing the tax charged on share transac-

tions, would require legislative changes that would take time, "which we do not have". The LDP has formed a task force to draft a package of measures to help support falling share prices and long-term steps designed to attract investors back to the market. These have yet to be unveiled.

Trading yesterday was slow, with an estimated 200 million shares changing hands, far below the 1.5 billion that used to be traded in the market's heyday in 1989 when the Nikkei almost topped the 40,000 mark.

According to Chris Dodson, of Merrill Lynch Japan, the only thing that could force a significant upturn would be some favourable corporate earnings surprises in the real estate and construction sectors.

Five-year low, page 24

## Crumbling island buys crumbling airline

By Matthew Bond

WHAT do you do if 80 years of intensive phosphate mining has left your island just a metre or so above the advancing, greenhouse-warmed waters of the Pacific? Answer: buy a plane — and fast. Faced with exactly that problem, Nauru, a tiny but rich island in the South Pacific, is endeavouring to do just that. In fact, it likes the idea so much, it wants to buy an entire airline.

The Nauru government yesterday made a \$55 million (£24 million) offer for Compass Airlines, the Australian carrier whose failure last December left 125,000 would-be passengers with apparently worthless tickets. Since December, Compass has been run by provisional liquidators, who have been looking for between \$30 million to \$60 million of new capital to get the planes back in the air.

Despite having teamed up with Aust-

fin, a merchant bank, the Nauru government appears to be having difficulty in getting the liquidators to take its bid seriously. An earlier bid from the Nauru/Austfin combination has already been rejected, and, on Friday, the liquidators announced their intention to sell Compass to Southern Cross Airlines, a company, which despite its name, has yet to put a plane in the air. But Kinza Clodumar, Nauru's finance minister, is not a man to give up without a fight. After consulting with Austfin, the revised offer shows the islanders are determined to enter the airline market.

The bid for Compass is Nauru's boldest attempt yet to improve what might be termed the quality of its national earnings. For after 80 years of mining — first by the Germans and then by "the phosphateers", a commission representing British, Australian and New Zealand national interests — Nauru's rich mineral resource is approach-

ing exhaustion. The price of realising its mineral wealth has been high. Over four-fifths of the island are said to resemble the surface of the moon, while the island is still pursuing a \$72 million legal claim against the British, Australian and New Zealand governments for loss of profits prior to the island gaining independence in 1968. But the monetary rewards for the 6,000 or so islanders have been considerable.

Nauru's government has been aware that the phosphate income stream is nearing its end and has been diverting its national income into supposedly more secure international investments, including property. At one point, perhaps tired of the view out of the cabinet room window, the government toyed with the idea of buying a new island from the Australian government and moving the whole population to a more agreeable home. Presumably the view from 30,000ft is rather better.

## Tories creeping up on Labour

### Labour in disarray over Ashdown's hung parliament

big survey gives Labour 2.5pc lead

Too close to call

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TEMPUS

# Profit figures stack up for Tesco

THERE are elements of the City that have been waiting for the three big supermarket groups to feel the effects of the recession. According to Tesco, it happened last year.

Far from faltering under the impact of a slowdown in volume growth, Tesco, whose chairman is Sir Ian MacLaurin, has emerged from one of the toughest years ever with a set of figures that would have sparked even in the heady days of the boom.

In the 53 weeks to end-February, against 52 weeks to February 23, 1991, turnover rose 12.9 per cent to £7.6 billion and pre-tax profits grew 25.1 per cent to £436 million to £546 million. Operating profits grew 20 per cent to £503 million.

The £572 million rights issue last year benefited the interest line by £69 million and diluted the earnings per share figure 3 per cent. The extra week added 2 per cent to pre-tax profits. Operating margins increased from 6.6 per cent to 7.1 per cent and fully diluted earnings per share grew 20.2 per cent to 19.95p. Property profits fell from £19.1 million to £500,000 and the final dividend is 4.3p, making 6.3p for the year, a rise of 20 per cent.

These results have been achieved in a year when the underlying volume growth was marginal. New stores accounted for 6.5 per cent of the 13 per cent sales increase and the extra week for 2 per cent. Sunday opening added less than 1 per cent to sales.

Tesco has achieved its profit levels by opening stores that perform at a higher level than the old stores. Last year, £700 million was spent on 24 new stores. Sales per employee have risen from £106,044 to £119,246 in the last year, and profit per employee from £7,018 to £8,456.

Tesco says the recession is easing and sales are running 11 per cent ahead. There are still some who believe that Tesco's strategy of spending £700 million a year on store openings is flawed, but Tesco is sticking to its strategy and it has more than ten years of



Shelves stacked high: Sir Ian MacLaurin, the chairman of Tesco, in one of the company's superstores

uninterrupted profits growth to back it up.

Assuming pre-tax profits of £615 million (Henderson Crosthwaite) in the current year, the shares, up 4 1/2 p at 255 1/2 p, are trading on 11.7 times prospective earnings. They have bounced back from a low of 207p at Christmas and, while they might be unexciting in the short term, medium to longer term they do not look expensive.

## Meggitt

FOR Meggitt to have moved from gearing of 59 per cent to 26 per cent in 1991, even before the September rights issue that raised £39.6 million, is, if nothing else, an

indication of just how lax control of working capital must have been among some of Britain's leading companies before the recession encouraged better house-keeping.

The rights issue left £22 million net in the bank, although this will soon be depleted by the £53 million Endeavour Corporation purchase announced last month. Bullish talk by Meggitt suggests that a further, similarly sized deal may be in prospect, probably in Europe and, Meggitt will long be identified in the market's mind for the debacle of the bid for United Scientific Holdings, where the bidder backed

away at the last moment after new financial information came to light.

Ken Coates, the Meggitt chairman, is cautious of some of the opportunities that have been pushed across his desk of late. He admits the company looked at Penny & Giles, now under a £30 million agreed offer from Bowthorpe, before deciding that the asking price was too high.

Meggitt's pre-tax profits were little changed in 1991 at £23.5 million against £23.9 million. Sandy Morris at County NatWest expects another year of consolidation in 1992, although the Endeavour buy, earnings-enhancing from the off, will

boost the pre-tax figure to £27 million, he believes.

The shares sell on about 11.5 times this year's earnings and 10.2 times the next year's. After a 25 per cent outperformance of the FT-SE index over the past year, they cannot be described as a raging buy, but the group's proven ability at managing acquisitions should ensure longer-term support.

## St Ives

ST IVES will clap its corporate hands with glee if Labour wins tomorrow. Robert Gavron, chairman, believes then an extra £600 million would be spent on education, which means more text books — which St

Ives would love to print.

A kick to the economy might free up the advertising spend, as the general public shakes off its recession blues. And, on balance, Labour would be generally more positive for the economy, he thinks.

But whatever the colour of the government, St Ives is too far into the second half of the current financial year to be totally saved from the current economic gloom, and will, therefore, probably suffer more pressure on margins in the remaining months to end-July.

So after some again pre-tax profits of £10.1 million, for the six months to end-January, some dip in year-on-year profits looks likely.

The shares are, however, a buy on the grounds that St Ives has already taken effective cost measures to cope with tougher conditions, and because the balance sheet remains strong.

With net cash of £3.4 million, compared with a net holding of £124,000 at the last balance sheet date, financial muscle is on its side. And if the smaller and weaker companies in the printing world are merely holding on by their finger tips, St Ives by contrast is waiting to move ahead.

When an upturn comes, the impact on St Ives's profits line will be direct and impressive. An estimated 30 per cent of any £10 million of additional turnover will feed straight through to profits. So the days of merely maintained interim dividends may not last too long.

St Ives is operating at 75 per cent printing capacity, but the group has secured a higher market share in various fields of operation. City merger and acquisition activity should perk up after the general election, and specialised printing is proving a growing market.

Pre-tax profits of £18 million (£20.2 million) would not be too disappointing, considering the trading back-ground, and a strong profits recovery in 1993 seems likely. A 244p share price, up 5p, and 18.8 times rating, could look generous on a year's view.

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

### Former Lex chief given £637,000 handshake

THE former managing director of Lex Service, who resigned soon after Christmas, received a £637,000 compensation package, the company's 1991 report and accounts disclose. Peter Turnbull's salary was between £265,000 and £270,000 in 1991. Lex made pre-tax profits of just £500,000 that year.

Mr Turnbull's post was not filled after his departure. A spokesman for the company said a managing director was no longer needed because of the sale of the electronics businesses in America and Europe, which Mr Turnbull had been involved in restructuring, and the consequent decrease in the company's size. Last month, Lex reported that in addition to the profits fall, from £9.1 million in 1990 caused by the difficult conditions in the car industry, it had lost the concession to supply Volvo cars after 33 years.

### Wescol cheers Leeds

A £1 MILLION contract to help build one of the world's largest football stands signals better fortune for Wescol, the structural engineering group. Construction industry problems brought a loss of £379,000 before tax in the six months to January 31 (£180,000 loss). But the Leeds United contract, backed by several new orders, will help boost turnover, which fell £1.7 million, after stripping out discontinued operations of Lumbrook Sheeting Contractors. Wescol believes it is on course to break even. There is again no dividend.

### Car dealer at £2.1m

USED car sales and after-sales service provided a bulwark against difficult conditions in the new vehicle market at Dagenham Motors Group, holding pre-tax profits in the year to end-December at £2.1 million (£3.1 million). A 4.0p unchanged final dividend makes a same again 5.75p total. New vehicle sales fell 18.5 per cent and most of the new sales operations made little or no profit or ran at a loss. Used cars rose more than 30 per cent in sales and profits, while after-sales operations again provided most of the profits.

### Demerger considered

PITTENCRIEFF is considering the demerger of the mobile communications business from its oil and gas interests. Terry Heneaghan, the chairman, said communications, developed to provide radio services for oil production sites, could command "a substantial value" that was not fully reflected in Pittencrieff's share price of 219p. Group pre-tax profits rose to £3.51 million (£2.03 million) last year and earnings to 17.25p (14.01p) a share. A final dividend of 3.50p (2.50p) makes a total of 6p (4.50p).

### BLP deficit rises

BLP Group, the troubled maker of wood laminates and veneers that is quoted on the USM, reports pre-tax losses of £2.6 million for last year (£198,000 loss). The company said its main markets in the UK and America had been severely affected by recession and turnover of the continuing businesses fell from £23.4 million to £21.7 million. The retained deficit for the year was £3.2 million or 38.2p a share. There is no ordinary dividend (0.25p), but payments on the preference shares are now up to date.

### Ipeco pays more

IPECO Holdings, the manufacturer of aircraft seats based in Southend, Essex, is raising its dividend for last year after a resilient performance in a "most hostile" environment and despite a slight dip in profits. Pre-tax profits slipped 5.8 per cent to £3.38 million on turnover up 0.3 per cent to £18.1 million. The final dividend is 2.2p (2p), making 3.4p (3.2p). Earnings per share were 8.19p (8.74p). Ipeco said its trading position and strong balance sheet gave hope for further advances in the current year.

### Black reduces losses

BLACK & Edgington Group, the supplier of hospitality tents and crowd barriers formerly known as Tubular Edgington, reported reduced interim losses and expects a return to profitability in the second half. The company suffered a pre-tax loss of £1.96 million in the six months to end-January (loss of £5.78 million). The figures were helped by a fall in interest payable to £266,000, against £930,000. Losses per share are reduced to 0.4p from 8.1p last time. Again, there is no dividend.

### Addison issue flops

THE £16 million rights issue by Addison Consultancy Group, the market research company, to finance an acquisition of businesses from the collapsed Maxwell empire has flopped, with only 2.4 per cent of the new shares taken up. The nine-for-four issue was priced at 12p compared with yesterday's unchanged market price of 11p and was underwritten by Robert Fleming.

## Notice of Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Aktiebolaget SKF will be held at SKF Kristinodol, Byfogdegatan 4, Göteborg, at 3.30 p.m. on Wednesday April 29, 1992.

## Annual General Meeting

### Agenda

Ordinary general meeting business will be transacted in accordance with Swedish law and the Articles of Association.

The AGM will also cover the Board's proposals for a change in the Articles of Association which broadly will imply that the clause in the Articles which places limitations on the right of foreign nationals to acquire shares in the company (87) be removed, and resulting textual changes made. The abolition of this clause, which is subject to government approval, will mean that all shares become free of the above restrictions.

The meeting will further cover the Board's proposal to authorise the Board, in accordance with Chapter 5, §9 of the Companies Act, to issue convertible debentures not later than the next ordinary general meeting. With the conversion conditions valid at the time of issue, this will mean an offer of 8,300,000 shares of the B series to be freely available. This issue shall, with deviation from the shareholders' right of preference, be directed at the international capital market. The Board's conditions for this issue would be those that normally prevail at issues of this kind.

### Notice of Attendance

For the right to participate in the meeting, shareholders must be recorded in the shareholders' register kept by the Securities Register Centre (VPC AB) by Thursday April 16 and must notify the Company before noon Friday April 24 of their intention to attend (Aktiebolaget SKF S-415 St Göteborg, Tel: +46-31-37 26 52), giving details of name, address, telephone and shareholding.

### Payment of Dividends

The Board recommends that shareholders with holdings in the register records on May 7 are entitled to receive dividends for 1991. If this date is accepted by the Annual General Meeting it is expected that the Securities Register Centre will send out notices of payment to recorded shareholders and listed depositaries on May 14, 1992. The proposed dividend is 4.25 kronor per share. To facilitate payment of dividends, shareholders who have changed address are recommended to inform Värdepapperscentralen VPC AB, S-171 18 Södra well before April 30.

Proxy forms are available from: AB SKF, S-415 St Göteborg, Sweden. Tel: +46-31-37 26 52 & 37 10 00.

Göteborg April 1992.

The Board of Directors

**SKF**

## Sales take Ossory nearer goal

By MATTHEW BOND

OSSORY Estates, the property company, has completed more than £40 million of sales so far this year, as it moves towards its target of covering overheads and interest charges with rental income.

About £17.5 million of investment sales were completed by the end of the interim period, with the £177,000 profit generated by the sales saying much about the current state of the market.

John Walker, the chairman, said: "It has become abundantly clear that the present recession is far deeper and will continue for much longer than was expected and that the business of Ossory, in common with almost all property companies, will continue to be adversely affected."

Mr Walker described opportunities for making profit from either trading or developing property as rare. Pre-tax profits at the group slumped from £4 million to £1.5 million in the six months to end-December.

The interim dividend has been cut from 2p to 0.15p, and the company said that the position of the final dividend would be reviewed "following consideration of the year-end results".

In January it was announced that Joe Shaoul and Brett Allen, the company's joint managing directors, were stepping down as part of the rationalisation and cost cutting programme.

## Nissan opens car test and design centre in Britain

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

ONE of Europe's most advanced car test and design centres, which will bring technology from Japan to Britain, has been opened by Nissan in Bedfordshire.

The company is spending £51 million on the centre, which is linked by computer to Nissan's Japanese headquarters. Advanced vehicle designs can be transmitted to computer screens at the Nissan European Technology Centre at Cranfield, where engineers and designers are already working on developing a car that will be built at Nissan's British manufacturing plant this year.

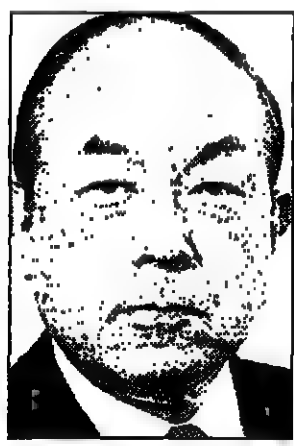
The Cranfield site, the result of Nissan policy of having a design centre in each of the main markets in which it makes cars, might help answer European manufacturers' criticisms that the Japanese only assemble cars in Britain while important design functions are carried out in Japan.

Nissan has been manufacturing at Washington, Tyne & Wear, since 1986 and will increase output to 270,000 cars a year in 1993.

The increase will be achieved by adding a new version of the Micra to the current Primera range made at Washington. The Micra will have been developed at Cranfield from the basic Japanese engine, chassis and body design, for production in Britain and sale throughout Europe.

Yuuka Kume, Nissan's president, said: "Now we can say that Nissan is a fully integrated European manufacturer, designing, producing and selling vehicles in Europe for European customers."

The workload for the technology centre, which employs 360 people, includes a project to design a new 4x4 off-road vehicle for manufacture at Nissan's plant in Spain and development of the next generation of Primera saloons and hatchbacks.



Kume: "fully integrated"

## Enter Sky Dragon Charter

A GROUP of farmers in China are forgoing their furs to take to the skies — but are having to contend with old-order bureaucracy in their struggle to begin the country's first privately run air service.

The farmers, from wealthy Cangnan county in east China's Zhejiang province, signed a contract on Sunday with the government-run Nanjing United Airlines to provide a service between Zhejiang's Wenzhou and Shanghai, the largest city in China.

Under the one-year contract, the farmers will provide flights twice a week, using a Chinese-made Yun 7-100 aircraft, a Nanjing United Airlines official said. The farmers, who are calling

themselves Cangnan Sky Dragon Charter Airline Co, will sell seats on the 52-passenger aircraft for 150 yuan (£16) each.

They will pay Nanjing United a fee equal to 82 per cent of the flight capacity — anything they sell above that level they can keep as profit.

Conservative bureaucrats in Peking could still clip the farmers' wings, however. An official at the Civil Aviation Administration of China said that the organisation would investigate and close down the farmers' service if it found anything wrong.

An earlier foray by the farmers into chartering aircraft ran into difficulties with Chinese bureaucracy last month. Since July last year

the group had been renting a Russian-made aircraft to fly between Wenzhou and Changsha, capital of Hunan province. This generated revenue of close to two million yuan.

But they had to stop flights on March 25 when the regional government-owned carrier — whose plane it was — transferred the aircraft elsewhere, an official of the Hunan Civil Aviation Administration (HCAA) said.

The farmers, not to be outdone, hope to start again — maybe even using a Boeing 737 jet.

But "the decision rests with the Hunan authorities", the Hunan aviation administration official said.

(Reuters).

## Dividend up at City Centre

By PHILIP FANGALOS

CITY Centre Restaurants, which runs Garfunkel's and Deep Pan Pizza, is raising its dividend despite a small decline in profits. Pre-tax profits last year slipped to £9.1 million (£10.6 million). The final dividend is raised to 1.01p (0.94p), making 1.46p (1.39p).

Recession and the first half impact of the Gulf war, severe weather and transport disruption all served to keep customers away from the group's outlets. However, Bruce Johnston, the chairman, said there are some tentative signs of recovery.

Turnover climbed from £75.7 million to £79.8 million, with the total number of restaurants up nine to 154. Average customer spending increased by 7 per cent.

Results for the current year are "substantially ahead" on the comparable period. There was an extraordinary debit of £60,000, mainly due to a provision against the group's investment in Cullen's.

Earnings per share fell to 3.79p, against 4.04p last time. The shares added 4p to 60p.

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# CDC swells coffers with £46m sale in HK to Chinese

BY ROSS TIEMAN AND LULU YU

CIVIL servants at the Commonwealth Development Corporation have been putting their private-sector banking competitors to shame for years by realising healthy profits on investments in Third World infrastructure.

The CDC's latest realisation, of a 6.86 per cent stake in Hong Kong container terminal operator Modern Terminals Limited (MTL), is, however, by far its most spectacular to date.

The corporation, a little-known British development bank run by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, invested £2 million in MTL in 1971. Yesterday, it announced an agreement to sell that stake to China Merchant Holdings for £46 million.

Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Co (P&O), the British shipping group, also said it would sell 8.1 per cent of its 23 per cent holding in MTL to China Merchant for £55 million. The deals are

significant both for the attention that they focus on the CDC, and for their signals about the pattern of Hong Kong's future development under China.

The CDC's windfall profit comes only a week before the Monopolies and Mergers Commission is scheduled to complete its first review of CDC operations since the bank was created in 1948.

The MMC report on the desk of the incoming foreign secretary will show that the CDC has generated a surplus every year since 1955. Almost uniquely among British public corporations, the corporation is allowed to keep its profits.

Accumulated surpluses, access to cheap-rate loans set aside for government foreign aid, and the spur from the MTL realisation will this year enable the CDC to invest £200 million in Third World projects. Schemes to re-plant hardwoods to replace lost

tropical forest, especially in poorer countries in Africa and the Pacific, are now an urgent priority, the CDC believes.

In Hong Kong, meanwhile, China Merchant, with 15 per cent, will become the second-largest shareholder in MTL, after the Wharf group, founded by the late Sir YK Pao, which owns 26 per cent.

Peking's expansion in Hong Kong in the run-up to the sovereignty changeover in 1997 has been rapid. Chinese firms have made numerous acquisitions in the colony, often using their political ties to go after blue-chip companies or contracts and franchises.

The Chinese have significant stakes in Cathay Pacific Airways, and telephone franchisee Hong Kong Telecom. They are also active in the property sector, taking over from the Japanese as Hong Kong's largest investors. As Hong Kong builds its multi-billion dollar airport, Chinese contractors are competitive bidders.

China Merchant, the biggest shipping agency in Hong Kong, has long been interested in the territory's container terminals, which are operated by MTL and Hong Kong International Terminals (HIT), a subsidiary of Mr Li Ka-shing's Hutchison Whampoa group.

Hong Kong has the largest privately owned container operations in the world, and is the second busiest port after Singapore. The outlook for the industry is excellent despite an American recession and falling exports because Hong Kong is the principal port for southern China.

Last year, the government granted MTL and HIT rights to develop a terminal, with the understanding that the two would find Chinese partners for the project. As HIT already has a major Chinese shareholder, China Merchant has been expected to team up with MTL.

P&O, which acquired a secondary listing on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange last September, said yesterday that it wanted to release capital to expand in Hong Kong and the Far East. It also hinted at the formation of P&O Asia, to be headquartered in the colony.

Lord Sterling, the chairman, said "the welcome participation of China Merchant in Modern Terminals Ltd adds strength to MTL's commercial position. Such links further enhance Hong Kong's position as the key strategic centre for South China."



Better shape: David Jones, the chief executive, who reported improved annual results for Next yesterday

## Next cuts a dash back into black

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH

NEXT, the retail group founded by George Davies that crashed spectacularly 18 months ago, is on the road to recovery. Pre-tax profits of £12.3 million in the year to January, after a bottom-line loss of £44.8 million last time, have enabled the group to resume dividend payments.

The figures for last year were clean of 1990's exceptional costs of £429 million, which resulted from the excessive expansion of the mid-Eighties, the recession and property slump.

Next has survived by selling Grattan, its mail order

business, to Otto Versand of Germany for £167.5 million. Group pre-tax and pre-exceptional profits reached £12.3 million after last time's £7.2 million loss. Operating profits were £11.1 million, against profits of £7.2 million, and the interest line has improved from a charge of £14.4 million to a gain of £1.2 million. Turnover was £462 million, against £878 million. Last year's pension holiday, worth £1.5 million, is expected to continue.

Earnings were 3.08p a share, against a loss of 13.58p, and the dividend is 0.75p. Lord Wolfson of Sunningdale, the chairman, said Next anticipated being

able to recommend the payment of an interim and a final net dividend in the current year.

David Jones, the chief executive, said that since the restructuring plan was introduced two years ago, the group has sold 100 stores, many of which were not trading profitably. An improvement in the cost base and product range led to a strong performance from the shops in the second half of last year. Second-half profits from the retail business were £9.1 million, compared with a first-half loss of £1.9 million.

Next resisted the urge to discount prices outside the sale period and Christmas

trading was strong. Sales at Next Directory were below the group's expectations but there were fewer mark-downs. The directory made profits of £4 million, against £2.6 million last time.

Club24, the credit business now being wound down, reduced gross debts from £185 million to £163 million. Of the £33.2 million provision, £23.2 million has been utilised and Mr Jones said he did not expect all of the remaining £10 million would be needed.

Since February 1, retail sales are running 7 per cent ahead of last year despite a cut in selling space. Directory sales are up 3 per cent. The shares rose 5p to 71p.

## Palace coup strips GM chief of power

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

ROBERT Stempel, chairman of General Motors, the world's largest car company, has been effectively stripped of his executive power and placed on probation in the biggest management shake-up at the car company since its founder was ousted 70 years ago.

The palace coup, staged by the independent directors, has pushed aside much of the top team and replaced Mr Stempel as head of the company's key executive committee with John Smale, a former chairman of Procter and Gamble and a GM director for ten years with a reputation for cutting bureaucracy. The

committee has full executive power, runs the company between the regular monthly board meetings and is able to take unilateral decisions on jobs and spending.

Mr Stempel, aged 58, and 22 months into the top GM job, will remain as chairman and chief executive officer. But those close to the company believe his future is now in the balance.

Promoted into the top day-to-day executive slot is John Smith, aged 54, a vice-chairman and the man who has been in charge of GM's European operations, the only successful part of its car business. Out goes Lloyd Reuss, a hand-picked Stempel lieutenant who was in charge of GM's North American car making operations, which lost over \$11 billion last year.

Two months ago, when he unveiled the worst loss in American corporate history, Mr Stempel said it would take some time to turn around GM.

In a statement, the outside directors said that they wanted a "more aggressive" approach to cost cutting. GM lost \$4.5 billion last year and proposes to cut 74,000 jobs and 21 plants by 1995. Analysts now expect a major acceleration of this plan.

Early last month, the credit rating on GM's \$90 billion of debt was lowered by Standard & Poor's, the rating agency. The rating on \$20 billion of short-term commercial paper is still under review.

Robert Eaton, Mr Smith's number two, left the company last month to become his apparent to Lee Iacocca at Chrysler.

GM will announce figures for the first three months of this year within the next two weeks. They are expected to remain in the red.

## Losses at Waterford Wedgwood reduced

BY MARTIN BARROW

WATERFORD Wedgwood reduced losses in 1991 but said that the market for its crystal and china was still being affected by recession.

The Dublin-based group cut pre-tax losses to £12.7 million (£2.52 million) from £182.4 million, in line with market expectations, reflecting lower interest charges and exceptional items.

Losses were 0.73p a share, reduced from 4.29p. Again, there is no dividend.

Shareholders were given a warning that the adverse trading environment continued into the opening months of the current year.

Bernard Somers, an accountant, has been appointed

to carry out a study of costs which could herald more job losses in the Irish Republic.

Waterford reduced its Irish workforce from 2,900 to 2,300 in 1987, and the company said in its results statement that crystal workers had been put on short-time to reduce excess capacity.

Sales fell from £1307.9 million to £1292.1 million. The group has introduced a new range of crystal called Marquis. It is being made in Germany, Portugal and Yugoslavia.

The range is twice as profitable as the high-cost crystal produced at the Waterford factories in the Irish Republic.

## Meggitt expects boost

Meggitt, the specialist engineer chaired by Ken Coates, is looking forward to a spending spree by the Kuwaitis and other Middle Eastern countries as orders to repair damage done in the Gulf war are finally placed. The group, which saw pre-tax profits slip from £23.9 million to £23.5 million last year, is remains in acquisition mode even after the \$53 million cash purchase of Endevco Corporation, an American maker of transducers, pressure controls and sensors.

A final dividend of 2.6p makes a total increased 5.6 per cent to 3.6p. Mr Coates said the group was seeing an average of one company a day offered as an acquisition, of which perhaps one of two a week were worth following up. *Tempus*, page 22

## Wardle steady

Operating efficiencies and a tighter rein on finances left pre-tax profits at Wardle Stores little changed at £4.36 million (£4.29 million) in the half-year to February 29. The interim dividend is held at 4p.

## Pegasus drops

Pegasus reports a 59 per cent fall in first-half pre-tax profits to £320,000, but is maintaining its interim dividend at 3.5p. Derek Moon, chief executive, said the fall was exaggerated by £272,000 of research and development expenditure.

## Dredging dips

British Dredging, the building materials supplier, is maintaining its dividend for last year despite a slide in profits. Pre-tax profits fell 28.4 per cent to £2.47 million. The final dividend is 4.8p, giving an unchanged 7.4p.

## Losses cut

Bourne End Properties reduced its pre-tax losses to £1.4 million last year compared with £2.2 million in 1990. The total dividend is halved to 1p.

## Laser buys

Countryside Properties has sold a 74,300 sq ft office development in the Chatham Dockyards, in Kent, to Laser Richmond, the enterprise zone property trust. Laser is paying £16.2 million for five buildings that will be built on a 3.4-acre site.

## Baillie payout

Baillie Gifford Technology, which has made capital repayments since 1990, says further payments could follow from the sale of Redwood International to IMI. It is paying a dividend of 0.2p (1.4p).

## Sherwood sees wood through trees

BY OUR CITY STAFF

SHERWOOD Group, Britain's biggest sockmaker and Europe's largest lacemaker, has once again shrugged off the effects of the recession, reporting pre-tax profits for the year to end-December up 36 per cent to £14.5 million.

The company has achieved impressive profits growth since coming to the Unlisted Securities Market six years ago, and has more than doubled profits since 1988 during a period of slow growth and less consumer spending on clothes.

David Parker, the chairman and managing director, said there had been a trend during the past few years to make socks from healthier, but less long-lasting, natural fibres. The biggest growth market is that for character socks for children, he added. Sherwood has recently won the license to supply Disney character socks in the UK and at Euro Disneyland in Paris. Sher-

wood supplies most of the high street retailers, including Marks and Spencer, its biggest customer, and has a 20 per cent share of the UK market after its acquisition of Samuel Edin in June and Charles W Hall in January. The lace division, two thirds of whose sales are made overseas, also performed "exceptionally well," Mr Parker said.

Year-end gearing was 44 per cent, the first time it has fallen below 50 per cent since the flotation. Mr Parker said he hoped for a further reduction during the current year. He described prospects for 1992 as "very good."

The company has applied for a full listing, partly to "help attract a wider shareholder base".

It is also proposing a bonus issue of four new shares for every one held. The final dividend is increased to 7.5p, making 11.4p for the year, a 25 per cent increase.



Material gain: David Parker, head of Sherwood

## PowerGen breaks mould on labour relations

BY LIZA DONALDSON AND ROSS TIEMAN

TRADE unions at PowerGen, the electricity generator, will today begin consulting the company's 7,000 workers on an agreement that could pioneer the biggest revolution in power industry labour relations since nationalisation 43 years ago.

The breakthrough deal, tabled yesterday, envisages the end of national bargaining, a cut in the number of employee grades from 32 to 11, and salaries ranging from £10,000 to £40,000 being negotiated simultaneously around a single table by trade unions and management. Expected to be agreed by June 1, the deal will mark the beginning of the biggest decentralisation of national pay bargaining in the newly privatised industries.

Electricity industry employers,

now divided into about 20 companies, have given the requisite 12 months' notice that they are withdrawing from national bargaining by January 31 next year. The move will affect 136,000 highly unionised employees. Among power industry workers, 82 per cent belong to a trade union, a far higher level than in the private sector as a whole.

PowerGen, chaired by Sir Graham Day, is seen as the standard bearer for the companies' bargaining agenda in the industry. The group is anxious to increase employee flexibility after an energetic efficiency campaign that has cut employee numbers 40 per cent in the past two years.

The company is seeking single-table bargaining with its six recognised unions, to replace negotiations with three separate groups: the engineer/managers, manual and clerical workers. The proposals also

envisage a single salary spine of 11 grades, replacing 32 national grades, and harmonisation of pay and conditions for white and blue collar workers.

John Hart, personnel director of PowerGen, said the agreement would remove artificial barriers to career progression.

The deal will increase PowerGen's annual wages bill of £160 million to £170 million a year by 1.5 per cent. Employees will be offered a cash incentive of £400 each plus 2 per cent of basic salary as a reward for signing the new contracts.

Other features of the offer are a single pay date from next April and common rules on overtime (more than 37 hours a week) and non-social hours. All pay cheques will be monthly.

Eddie Newall, chief negotiator for manual workers at the GMB general

union, the biggest among the workforce, said the deal would be put to members in a ballot. The GMB would recommend acceptance because the package removed barriers to promotion and improved terms. Nalgo, the white-collar union, is also recommending acceptance.

A number of electricity companies are likely to follow PowerGen's lead. A similar deal is being proposed at National Grid for the company's 6,000 employees, and at Manweb, with 4,600 employees. Nuclear Electric is looking for a single-table deal for its 12,500 workers. However, National Power, with 12,500 employees, favours multi-table bargaining with the three traditional bargaining groups. Seaboard, with 6,000 staff, is negotiating a pyramid structure with five bargaining groups, performance-related pay and 150 managers on personal contracts.

## THE LATE SHOW

On the evening of Election Day 1992 we will not close. We shall be fully operational throughout the night - a sure cure for election fever. Our corporate customers will have a continuous service - from opening on Thursday straight through until close of markets on Friday. Whatever their requirements we'll be ready to act on them.

Some of our customers might not need us at 3am. But they'll probably give us a very early call on Friday morning. Secure in the knowledge that our team won't be sliding into seats, coats half off, screens cold, scrambling for an update. We will have been active since before the first MP was returned. We will have the full picture, and so will our customers - well before they reach the office.

If you're a Royal Bank of Scotland customer and want an election fever cure, call us.

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## Tories share German burden

John Major's alibi finally appeared in Paris yesterday, although it may be too late to influence the jury. The OECD is preparing to cut its growth forecast for the world's main industrial countries as a whole this year because the recovery has, generally, been later in arriving than the organisation's economists expected. Norman Lamont, it seems, was not alone. Recovery will begin in earnest, but still slowly, in the second half, leaving the OECD's 2.2 per cent forecast for the year looking stranded.

Across the Atlantic, the IMF is predicting only 2 per cent for the world economy and for the European Community, rising to 3 per cent in Europe and 3½ per cent in America in 1993, but Michel Camdessus, its managing director, has admitted that plenty of fund directors think that that takes an excessively optimistic view of next year's prospects.

In both cases, one of the key reasons for caution is the continuing high level of Germany's short-term interest rates. These are keeping interest rates excessively high in other ERM countries, where high government borrowing also limits potential to stimulate the economy safely.

Jean-Claude Paye, the OECD's secretary general, has a picturesque way of rationalising this. It is, he suggests, a form of burden-sharing. "I consider German unification a historically important event, and one that is of benefit to us all, so it is not shocking and abnormal that a form of burden-sharing, mostly through interest rates, is occurring."

Since all the main parties contesting tomorrow's election are committed to the ERM, they might sagely nod agreement. Former Conservative MPs defending marginal seats might choose a less charitable form of words.

## Managing Waste

The message from Merrill Lynch, the American securities house handling the Waste Management International share issue, is that the mechanism of stabilisation tried out in last year's BT II issue and repeated here is the way floatations will work in future, so the market might as well get used to it. The system helps to ensure a stable aftermarket for all investors, but leaves the private investor not knowing quite what is happening.

Waste Management is not a complete rerun of the so-called "green shoe" used in BT II, in that the seller is not pledging to put up any extra shares that may be needed if the price rises. Instead, Merrill Lynch, as lead underwriter, will initially go short in its client's stock to meet oversubscription and buy spare shares that may come on the market as shares sell. The inherent risk will doubtless be reflected in its fees.

Stabilisation is the rule in American stock offerings and common in international issues, but it is barely known in the City. The Waste Management float has already required concessions from the Stock Exchange because of its curious hybrid nature, half placing and half tender offer.

The American house will not say by how much it will go short, or how long stabilisation will take place; it could last 30 days, but will most likely end earlier. Institutions trading on Seag can find out from their trading screens, as with BT II, and will, therefore, know when it comes to an end. Private investors will not.

Merrill Lynch says this is not a float aimed at the private investor. Too true, with stock being offered at more than 30 times' historic earnings. A chunk of shares is earmarked for the British retail market, but caution is advised.

# Taxing UK's housing foundation to demolish the wider economy

Richard Jeffrey says that Labour's tax plans would cripple the house market and personal wealth to create a recessionary spiral second to none

If a Briton's home is his castle, then Labour's personal tax proposals have to be seen as the most severe assault yet launched on its structure. The shadow budget would reduce the incomes of families below retirement age by more than £1.6 billion, equivalent to a half per cent decline in consumer spending. These are the families critical to financing Britain's housing market. Two thirds of households own their own homes, two thirds of these are mortgaged and the average mortgage is £48,000, costing about £400 per month net in interest. Mortgage payments therefore take about 30 per cent of the average family's after-tax income.

You can argue it is right that those on higher incomes should pay a higher proportion of earnings in tax. And, you can argue that many of the defects that have become evident in our economy after 18 months of recession stem directly from mistakes made by a Conservative chancellor, between 1987 and 1989. But Labour's plans for personal tax threaten to have a much more damaging impact on the quality of family life than anything the Conservatives have done over the past few years.

Labour's tax proposals appear to hit only those at the upper end of the income scale — if not the super-rich. This is far from the truth. A relatively small proportion of taxpayers would suffer, but they are by no means only the rich; better paid, yes; rich, not necessarily.

A large proportion of this group have had the benefit of tax cuts, but they have also had to cope with the consequent asset price inflation. For many this has meant accepting an extremely high level of mortgage borrowing. Most have survived the recession up to now but only by cutting current expenditure and contributing to the recession. Even the more prudent are now living close to the margin and their ability to pay the tax increases that will be demanded by John Smith has to be questioned. Many more could be forced into defaulting on their mortgage payments.

When the economy is viewed as a static system, it appears that as few as 10 per cent of taxpayers are hit. The web spreads dramatically when the economy is viewed as a dynamic system — with dire consequences. It is not possible to isolate one section of the community and pretend that the damage done to its financial circumstances will not hurt the economy as a whole.

The increases in personal taxation



Trying out the driving seat: a victorious Neil Kinnock could deliver a heavy blow to the house market

suggested by Labour are way too severe to be implemented in one step — there is no shock absorber within the system to help damp the initial impact of the change. Even those who believe in the general philosophy behind the tax proposals, including many Conservative voters who felt the 20-point cut in the top tax rate in 1988 was too great, must accept that Labour's current tax formula would have disastrous consequences. Because of the way the economy reacts to sudden changes, these consequences would be more severe than the overheating from the 1987 and 1988 Budgets. The economy has a greater capacity to absorb more demand than it has to adapt to less.

The initial effect, at least, is clear. A proportion of the community finds the tax burden imposed on it is beyond its means, because, for many people, the cost of servicing a mortgage is the largest single outgoing each month and cannot be changed. Hundreds of thousands of such families will conclude that the only way to make ends meet is to sell and buy a cheaper house. In its current fragile state, however, the housing market does not have the capacity to absorb such an increase in supply,

particularly not at the top. The price of housing at the upper end of the market will collapse. The process will not be contained there. The housing market is a continuous system and the shock waves will move through the price range until the whole market has been affected.

In this economic cycle, we have already seen house prices fall 15 per cent or more in many areas. They could drop an additional 25 per cent. During this process, few of those who initiated the cascade will have been able to improve their finances. If they have been able to sell their homes, it is likely to have been at a big capital loss. The wealth of the personal sector will have slumped.

Just as the impact of higher taxes cannot and will not be contained in a small area of the housing market, so the shock waves will continue to spread throughout the economy. The resulting loss of wealth will hit confidence at a very sensitive stage of the economic cycle when morale is already at an extremely low ebb.

Loss of wealth is, in particular, bound to reduce household spending. It is debatable whether the fall in house prices seen to date has had much direct impact on consump-

tion, since it merely took the froth off the market. A further 25 per cent fall would cut housing values below purchase prices for about a third of homeowners, particularly those who have bought most recently. To a certain extent this will simply force the market to stagnate; but for those who have to move (either from financial necessity or because of, say, a change in work location), there will be a one-off financial loss. Many of the remainder will need to raise savings to compensate for the fall in house prices and the resulting decline in their wealth.

To this unholy mix must be added the likely extra ingredient of a base rate rise. The markets have already shown their distaste when faced with the prospect of a Labour government, driving sterling down to its limits in the exchange-rate mechanism. It is not unreasonable to think in terms of a 2 per cent rise in base rates at some time after a Labour election victory as the new chancellor has his nerve tested by foreign exchange markets sceptical of Labour's record on inflation.

For a family with an average £48,000 mortgage, a 2 per cent rise in the mortgage rate would raise interest repayments by almost £65 a

month after tax. This will be hard to find in household budgets already stretched by the recession. For those who have also been penalised by Labour's new tax regime, such amounts might be impossible.

Faced with this squeeze on incomes, families will have to cut discretionary spending, making a further fall in consumers' expenditure unavoidable. The top 20 per cent of earners in the UK, who would either suffer from Labour's tax plans or receive no benefit, account for more than 35 per cent of household spending. Savers, who benefit from higher interest rates, tend to be older and to have a lower marginal propensity to consume.

Many retailers, already hit hard over the 18 months, will find this new dip in demand delivers a mortal blow. The shock waves will not stop here. Consider the construction industry and institutions that rely on property to meet their commitments. With the economy entering a severe second recession, there will be more unemployment.

Faced by a further decline in consumption, a majority of companies will attempt to pare back spending on plant and machinery to a bare minimum, rather than increasing investment in response to Labour's incentives. Wages will come under further pressure. Nor will government finances escape unscathed; falling activity in the economy will reduce income tax, VAT and corporation tax receipts. A Labour government might still be able to meet its expenditure commitments, but only by borrowing more at higher interest rates or by raising taxation.

There will be some good news. Ironically, for those sceptical foreign exchange dealers, the balance of payments would swing into surplus. Inflation would fall and could even turn negative. Automatic stabilisers might be expected to damp the impact on the economy. Unfortunately, recent experience shows this is not the case. The economy's reaction to tax cuts pushed through by Nigel Lawson up to 1988 illustrates that when given an unanticipated shock, the economy becomes extremely unstable. Confronted with the opposite shock of sharply rising tax rates, the economy could be destabilised.

In the two years to the end of 1988, total domestic expenditure rose 13.5 per cent in real terms, about 8 per cent faster than the sustainable rate. The joint impact of Labour's proposed tax plans, a rise in the mortgage rate and a greater loss of confidence is likely to cut total domestic expenditure by a further 2.5 per cent before any recovery.

Instead of the spiralling inflation of the late Eighties, there will be a recessionary spiral. A spiral that will undermine personal sector incomes and wealth and which, when it is over, will leave the UK looking back on one of the worst periods in its economic history.

The author is head of research at Charterhouse Tilney, the broker

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Betting on the election

LIFE — and the election — looks different through the eyes of a bookie. Ron Pollard, of Ladbroke, the man who introduced political betting in 1963, was yesterday offering odds of 5/1 on a Labour victory, 3/1 against a Conservative win and 400/1 against a win by the Liberal Democrats. In the event of a hung parliament, he believes that both Major and Kinnock will stay on to lead their respective parties in the next general election, but if one party were to get an overall majority, he thinks that the leader of the other party would be forced to leave. As for likely successors, from Friday he will be offering odds on either Heseltine, Hurd and Clarke to replace Major, or Smith, Brown and Blair — "as an outsider" — to replace Kinnock. "Only one thing changes prices and that's money," says the intrepid Pollard. "Opinion polls don't change them at all." Not everyone, however, agrees with his judgment. At 11pm on Saturday, Pollard was contacted at home about a Stoke-on-Trent man who wanted to place a £14,000 bet on the Tories getting a majority. "He must be mad," concludes Pollard. "But if he is right, he stands to win £142,000." And late yesterday, a London man wagered £20,000, also on a Tory win. "It's the biggest bet of the election," Pollard says. "The odds are altering. I offered him 11/4. He stands to win £55,000 if they win."

**Tough near the top**  
MANAGERS at Grand Metropolitan are about to be warned. In a radio interview to be broadcast on LBC this evening, Sir Allen Sheppard,



"It amazes me how they do it"

the chairman, admits that he does not delegate. By way of explanation, he adds: "My people are too good to be delegated to. GrandMet attracts serious risk-takers, so I don't have to tell people what to do, they just get on with it." If they do not get on with it, he says: "It's more likely for a manager to be fired for not attempting to do something than for trying, doing it in a sensible way and getting it wrong. But obviously, if they make a habit of it, I'll attend their leaving party." It certainly is tough near the top.

### Hunting heads

BRITAIN'S top companies are preparing themselves for an eventual economic upturn. Sir John Trelawny, of Goddard Kay Rogers, the executive head-hunting consultancy that specialises in salaries of £60,000 plus, says business has increased by 26 per cent since August. He has also detected a trend in the specifications for chief executives away from the cost-cutting chartered accountants and hatchet men, so much in demand in the past two years, to the marketing-

trained, business getters and business builders, more usually associated with boom conditions. "The demand is now for general managers, with the ability to grow businesses, by acquisition and by opening new markets, rather than intensive care specialists," he says.

### Brewin buyout

AT THE height of Big Bang, when American banks were paying absurd premiums for London brokers, few would have envied the partners of Brewin Dolphin, one of the largest UK private client stockbrokers, who sold 75 per cent of their equity to the little known Scandinavian Bank. Four years on, and the picture looks different. While blue chip names such as Scrimgeour Vickers and Messels have lost their independence, Brewin Dolphin has re-emerged intact as an independent broker, through a £6 million management buyout, announced yesterday. According to John Hall, its managing director, Brewin Dolphin, which has concentrated on private client business, no longer feels the need for a heavyweight backer. He adds that because partners were tied in by shareholdings — they retained 25 per cent — the firm still has its old partnership team in place. He refuses to say how the buy-out price compares with what ScanBank paid, but insists that the Scandinavians have no grounds for complaint. "They've not had a tremendous return," he says ambiguously, "but we've been profitable throughout. By comparison with other people who bought securities firms, they've done pretty well. Sounds like Hall has done pretty well, too.

CAROL LEONARD

## Tax and the unpaid housewife

From Mr Gordon Nurse

Sir, I refer to the letter from Mr Owen (Business Letters, April 3) commenting on the inequitable consequences of Labour's tax proposals for the couple with two children where the husband is the sole earner with a net income of £35,000 compared with the couple with only one child where both parents are working and together earning the same amount.

Surely the solution is to permit couples to opt to split the earnings of the sole earner between them. Better still, allow all married couples the right to apportion their total earned income between them

in such proportions as they may choose, thus enabling them to decide on the most tax efficient formula for their particular circumstances.

This would not only remove the inequitable effect of a system which will be made worse if Labour's proposals are implemented, but would go some way to enable the couples who wished it to give tangible recognition to the valuable contribution made to both the particular family and society in general of the unpaid housewife.

Yours faithfully,  
GORDON NURSE,  
11 Old Square,  
Lincoln's Inn, WC2.

### Consider London

From Mr Robert Hurst

Sir, Although I applaud the candidacies of London and Frankfurt for the location of the proposed European Central Bank (April 3), the powers that be should not forget that one reason put forward for not locating the proposed Community Trade Marks Office (CTMO) in England or Germany is that we have the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and Germany has the European Patent Office. In other words, it would be unfair for one EC member state to host two European institutions.

I have always considered this to be a somewhat infantile argument; and we can but hope that the decision to consider London and Frankfurt as prime candidates for the European Central Bank reflects a new thinking on the part of the Council of Ministers to choose the best place for the job. Would the Council perhaps now like to consider London as a prime candidate for the CTMO?

Yours faithfully,  
R. A. HURST,  
DJ Freeman,  
43 Fetter Lane, EC4.

### Bank charges

From Mrs B. Woodcock

Sir, My husband opened a small business account with National Westminster Bank in January 1991, with free banking for one year. In November last, we telephoned the bank and were informed the free period was extended to March 1992. We have now received a letter telling us charges will be applied from June, at £14 per quarter and 99p per entry.

In the bank's literature of December 1991, small business charges were £6 per quarter, plus 64p per entry. How on earth can the bank justify such increases when inflation is approximately 4 per cent.

Our turnover was £32,000 last year, and the account has been constantly in credit by approximately £2,000. Is it any wonder the small businessman is suffering at the hands of such dictatorial actions? Can these rises really be justified?

The bank's literature carries the slogan: "We're here to make life easier!"  
Yours faithfully,  
BARBARA WOODCOCK,  
24 Portland Close, Bedford.



## United Friendly Group plc

### RESULTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 1991

- Dividend for the year increased by 20%.
- After tax profits of £16.4 million up 13%.
- Life profits improve to £10.7 million up 15%.
- New life annual premiums of £20.6 million.
- General business underwriting loss improved to £4.0 million from £5.0 million.

	1991 £m	1990 £m
Premiums — Life	165.8	155.8
— General	71.7	60.7
Life business profits	10.7	9.3
General branch underwriting loss	(4.0)	(5.0)
Investment income and other profits	13.4	14.5
Profit attributable to shareholders	15.6	14.5
Dividend per share	12.30p	10.25p
Earnings per share	20.20p	18.14p

The board recommends the payment of a final dividend of 8.10p per share to be paid on 29 May 1992 to shareholders on the register at the close of business on 8 May 1992. The notice for the annual general meeting to be held on 8 May 1992 and the 1991 annual report and accounts will be sent to shareholders on 14 April 1992. Copies of the annual report may be obtained from the Secretary.

United Friendly Group plc, 42 Southwark Bridge Road, London SE1 9HE  
Telephone: 071-928 5644 Fax: 071-281 9077



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## Portfolio

### PLATINUM

From our Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall gain and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright a share of the daily prize money. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No	Company	Group	Gain or loss
1	ADT	Industrial	
2	Blue Circle	Building/Rtd	
3	Assoc Br Poms	Transport	
4	Sainsbury J	Rtds	
5	Web	Industrial	
6	Deven Newman	Transport	
7	Boone End	Property	
8	GKN	Industrial	
9	IMI	Industrial	
10	QS Hidge	Draperies	
11	Stanhope Pips	Property	
12	Independent	Newspaper/Pub	
13	Savile	Hotel/Cat	
14	P-E Inter	Electrical	
15	Bowater Inc	Industrial	
16	Cardway-Schw	Rtds	
17	Ditons Corp	Draperies	
18	City Centre Rest	Hotel/Cat	
19	Lockers	Motor/Air	
20	Clywed	Industrial	
21	Waco	Building/Rtd	
22	CRH	Building/Rtd	
23	FR Group	Motor/Air	
24	Bank Org	Industrial	
25	Br Aerospace	Motor/Air	
26	Wimpy G	Building/Rtd	
27	Smiths Ind	Industrial	
28	Highland Dist	Breweries	
29	Medeva	Industrial	
30	Nat West	Bank/Disc	
31	Clarison (H)	Transport	
32	BTR	Industrial	
33	Vodafone	Electrical	
34	Geest	Rtds	
35	MB-Carson	Industrial	
36	Enterprise	Oil/Gas	
37	Unigap	Rtds	
38	Nest	Draperies	
39	Worfold Widg	Industrial	
40	Maris Spencer	Draperies	
41	St Ives Up	Paper/Print	
42	BWT	Industrial	
43	Tekare	Industrial	

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Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily gain for the weekly dividend of £8,000 on Saturday's newspaper.

MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT SUN

Two readers shared the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. Mrs J.A. Wild, of Reading, and Mr Jude James, of Lymington, Hampshire, each receive £2,000.

1991/92 High Low Company Price Net Yld % P/E

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## Shares mark time

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began April 6. Dealings end April 24. Settlement day April 27. Settlement day May 5. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1991/92 High Low Company Price Net Yld % P/E

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## BRITISH FUNDS

1991/92 High Low Stock Price Net Yld % P/E

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# Strong Approach to go one better

**STRONG** Approach, beaten two lengths by Hey Cottage on his last trip to Ascot, looks capable of going one better on his return to the Berkshire course today.

Trained by Alistair Charlton at Stockfield in Northumberland, Strong Approach can land the valuable Bollinger Champagne Novices' Chase in the hands of Jamie Osborne, who also rode him on his previous visit.

Had Hey Cottage not been withdrawn overnight, he would have been meeting Strong Approach on 10th horse terms. That suggests his selection is not badly handicapped even though he has 11st 8lb to carry.

A line through Hey Cottage appears to give him the opportunity to beat the in-form OK Corral, who has been a revelation since he started chasing as he was only a seller over hurdles.

Last time at Chesham, OK Corral beat Hey Cottage by one and a half lengths when receiving 12lb from him.

Yet when Strong Approach was beaten two lengths by Hey Cottage over today's course and distance they carried the same weight.

The fact that the in-form Buck Willow was only a length behind in third place



Michael Phillips

that day suggests that there was nothing wrong with the form, even though Tynnyland and Rough Quest, the market leaders that day, were disappointments.

Since Norman Conqueror was also a let-down when he failed off at Cheltenham last time, Northern Jinks looks the pick of the remainder.

She was poised to win her third race in succession at Uttoxeter last time before capsizing at the final fence.

Following the victory of Party Politics in the Grand National at Liverpool last

week, the victory of Party Politics in the Grand National at Liverpool last

week, the victory of Party Politics in the Grand National at Liverpool last

Saturday, Mister Major would be another aptly-named winner of the Trillium Handicap Hurdle as the run-up to the general election draws to its close.

Well as he won over today's course and distance 11 days ago, I still prefer to be disloyal and go nap on King Credo, who was to have been my best bet for another race on the same programme until an injury to a foot necessitated his withdrawal at the eleventh hour.

While King Credo failed to recover from that setback in time to take his place in the field for the Oodhins Hurdle at Aintree last Friday, he is reported to be fine again now with his trainer Steve Woodman and poised to carry on where he left off at Newbury last month, on a winning note.

Quick Opinion, beaten only a short head at Nottingham last time out, can go one better by landing the Fairview New Homes Novices Chase, thus completing a double for his trainer, Nicky Henderson, who is also taken to win the Lily Tree Novices' Hurdle with his recent Newbury victor, Golden Arctic.

Blindfold first time

RIPON: 3.00 Day Night.

Osborne reunited with Strong Approach

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3.45 SARA HAMILTON-RUSSELL

MEMORIAL TROPHY HANDICAP HURDLE

(£2,250: 2m 5f) (20)

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MANDARIN	THUNDERER	RICHARD EVANS
2.00 Golden Arctic.	2.00 Copper Mine.	2.00 Golden Arctic.
2.30 Quick Opinion.	2.30 Quick Opinion.	2.30 Quick Opinion.
3.05 Strong Approach.	3.05 Kithlain Castle.	3.05 SPRUCKER (nap).
3.40 KING CREDO (nap).	3.40 King Credo.	
4.10 Yellow Spring.	4.10 ROYAL.	
4.45 Wall Game.	4.45 Wall Game.	
5.20 Rosemont.	5.20 Winter Squall.	
5.55 Lewesdon Hill.	5.55 Do Be Have.	

Brian Beel: 4.45 Wall Game.  
The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 2.00 COPPER MINE.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT

2.00 LILY TREE NOVICES HURDLE (£3,419: 2m 4f) (15 runners)

101	15454	ARTHUR'S MINISTREL 39 (D.F.G.) W. A. Stephenson 11-17	C Grant	68
102	100	CLEVER ARTIST 34 (D.F.G.) P. Hobbs 11-17	P. Hobbs	68
103	2-2121	COPPER MINE 32 (D.F.G.) M. S. Jones 11-17	M. S. Jones	68
104	55	GLEN LOCHAN 12 (D.F.G.) M. S. Jones 11-17	M. S. Jones	68
105	431-131	GOLDEN ARCTIC 18 (D.F.G.) M. S. Jones 11-17	M. S. Jones	68
106	20112	JANET 25 (D.F.G.) M. S. Jones 11-17	M. S. Jones	68
107	12112	SHAND 30 (D.F.G.) M. S. Jones 11-17	M. S. Jones	68
108	111225	KEEP OUT OF DEBT 11 (D.F.G.) M. S. Jones 11-17	M. S. Jones	68
109	109	MAD THYME 39 (D.F.G.) M. S. Jones 11-17	M. S. Jones	68
110	23-205	NICKLE JOE 33 (D.F.G.) M. S. Jones 11-17	M. S. Jones	68
111	01-03	OVERNIGHT 35 (D.F.G.) M. S. Jones 11-17	M. S. Jones	68
112	40-511	SUNSET AND VINE 22 (D.F.G.) M. S. Jones 11-17	M. S. Jones	68
113	0000P	THE LAST BUT ONE 22 (D.F.G.) M. S. Jones 11-17	M. S. Jones	68
114	0-14	VALERIE 22 (D.F.G.) M. S. Jones 11-17	M. S. Jones	68
115	55085	LAWSON 14 (D.F.G.) M. S. Jones 11-17	M. S. Jones	68

BETTING: 5.20 Golden Arctic, 11-4 Copper Mine, 11-4 Vellott, 10-1 Sunset And Vine, 14-1 Jan-Ra, 16-1 Brand, Keep Out Of Debt, 20-1 Nickle Joe, 25-1 Arthur's Ministrel, Glen Lochan, 30-1 others.  
1991: SPRINGDALE 6-10-11 A Smith (100-30) O Sherwood 17 ran

2.30 FAIRVIEW NEW HOMES NOVICES CHASE (£12,037: 3m) (22 runners)

101	3P00P	BADHAR 26 (D.F.G.) M. S. Jones 11-17	J Osborne	80
102	23-205	CATAPENNY 30 (D.F.G.) M. S. Jones 11-17	M. S. Jones	80
103	33P333	CYTHRE 28 (D.F.G.) M. S. Jones 11-17	M. S. Jones	80
104	002-20	DUNBROCK 28 (D.F.G.) M. S. Jones 11-17	M. S. Jones	80
105	01P02	OVERNIGHT 35 (D.F.G.) M. S. Jones 11-17	M. S. Jones	80
106	01P02	OVERNIGHT 35 (D.F.G.) M. S. Jones 11-17	M. S. Jones	80
107	01P02	OVERNIGHT 35 (D.F.G.) M. S. Jones 11-17	M. S. Jones	80
108	01P02	OVERNIGHT 35 (D.F.G.) M. S. Jones 11-17	M. S. Jones	80
109	01P02	OVERNIGHT 35 (D.F.G.) M. S. Jones 11-17	M. S. Jones	80
110	01P02	OVERNIGHT 35 (D.F.G.) M. S. Jones 11-17	M. S. Jones	80
111	01P02	OVERNIGHT 35 (D.F.G.) M. S. Jones 11-17	M. S. Jones	80
112	01P02	OVERNIGHT 35 (D.F.G.) M. S. Jones 11-17	M. S. Jones	80
113	01P02	OVERNIGHT 35 (D.F.G.) M. S. Jones 11-17	M. S. Jones	80
114	01P02	OVERNIGHT 35 (D.F.G.) M. S. Jones 11-17	M. S. Jones	80
115	01P02	OVERNIGHT 35 (D.F.G.) M. S. Jones 11-17	M. S. Jones	80

BETTING: 5.20 Golden Arctic, 11-4 Copper Mine, 11-4 Vellott, 10-1 Sunset And Vine, 14-1 Jan-Ra, 16-1 Brand, Keep Out Of Debt, 20-1 Nickle Joe, 25-1 Arthur's Ministrel, Glen Lochan, 30-1 others.  
1991: SPRINGDALE 6-10-11 A Smith (100-30) O Sherwood 17 ran

3.05 BOLLINGER CHAMPAGNE NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£18,400: 2m 4f) (17 runners)

101	421-121	LADY 26 (D.F.G.) M. S. Jones 11-17	P. Stammers	80
102	5-113P	NORMAN CONQUEROR 28 (D.F.G.) M. S. Jones 11-17	M. S. Jones	80
103	5-113P	LOCK BLUE 26 (D.F.G.) M. S. Jones 11-17	M. S. Jones	80
104	5-113P	LOCK BLUE 26 (D.F.G.) M. S. Jones 11-17	M. S. Jones	80
105	5-113P	LOCK BLUE 26 (D.F.G.) M. S. Jones 11-17	M. S. Jones	80
106	5-113P	LOCK BLUE 26 (D.F.G.) M. S. Jones 11-17	M. S. Jones	80
107	5-113P	LOCK BLUE 26 (D.F.G.) M. S. Jones 11-17	M. S. Jones	80
108	5-113P	LOCK BLUE 26 (D.F.G.) M. S. Jones 11-17	M. S. Jones	80
109	5-113P	LOCK BLUE 26 (D.F.G.) M. S. Jones 11-17	M. S. Jones	80
110	5-113P	LOCK BLUE 26 (D.F.G.) M. S. Jones 11-17	M. S. Jones	80
111	5-113P	LOCK BLUE 26 (D.F.G.) M. S. Jones 11-17	M. S. Jones	80
112	5-113P	LOCK BLUE 26 (D.F.G.) M. S. Jones 11-17	M. S. Jones	80
113	5-113P	LOCK BLUE 26 (D.F.G.) M. S. Jones 11-17	M. S. Jones	80
114	5-113P	LOCK BLUE 26 (D.F.G.) M. S. Jones 11-17	M. S. Jones	80
115	5-113P	LOCK BLUE 26 (D.F.G.) M. S. Jones 11-17	M. S. Jones	80

BETTING: 5.20 Golden Arctic, 11-4 Copper Mine, 11-4 Vellott, 10-1 Sunset And Vine, 14-1 Jan-Ra, 16-1 Brand, Keep Out Of Debt, 20-1 Nickle Joe, 25-1 Arthur's Ministrel, Glen Lochan, 30-1 others.  
1991: SPRINGDALE 6-10-11 A Smith (100-30) O Sherwood 17 ran

3.45 SARA HAMILTON-RUSSELL

MEMORIAL TROPHY HANDICAP HURDLE

(£2,250: 2m 5f) (20)

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RACING  
**Arazi passes first test with flying colours**

FROM RICHARD EVANS IN PARIS

THE dream lives on. At sunny Saint-Cloud yesterday, Arazi returned where he left off at Churchill Downs on Breeders' Cup day by winning with an ease and style which suggests he could become a racing legend.

Despite being only 60 per cent fit, according to his trainer, Francois Boutin, the world's top juvenile last year showed that operations to two knees and five months off the racecourse have not dulled his brilliance or speed.

Admittedly, the seven horses which he beat on his seasonal reappearance in the Prix Omnium II are probably not exceptional, but the manner in which he demolished the opposition, combined with the post-race remarks of Steve Cautchen, Boutin and joint-owner Allen Paulson, should make the heart of the racing world beat faster today.

Settled in sixth place early on, Arazi and Cautchen shimmered past two horses down the back straight before turning left-handed and sweeping into the lead just before the 300-metre pole. The 5-1 on favourite never needed to get out of second gear as he won on the bridle by five lengths.

Cautchen is not a jockey who uses superlatives without reason and so his assessment after riding the "wonder horse" for the first time in public was fascinating.

He likened Arazi to Affirmed, on whom Cautchen won America's triple crown in 1978 — the greatest compliment he could pay.

"I have ridden a lot of good horses but this is the first horse I would start to compare with Affirmed, and he is the best horse I have ridden."

Potentially, he has got the scope to be a great horse. He is so exciting. With most horses, you know their limitations. This horse is unlimited at the moment. You can't say how far he could go. He could do all sorts of things."

The Kentucky Derby, on May 2, is the next stop for Arazi and Cautchen predicted that "barring bad luck, he should win." He is a best priced 5-4 with William Hill, and that could prove generous in three weeks' time.

"I am not saying the American horses are a bad bunch, but I don't know anything that stands out. He showed that he could do it last year. I would love to ride him in the Kentucky Derby but I unfortunately won't unless Pat Valenzuela gets sick."

If — and it remains a big if — Arazi then goes for the Derby at Epsom on June 3, Cautchen is confident he will handle the unique course's slopes and undulations. Ladbrokes offer odds of 3-1 without the provision and 4-1 against an historic Derby double.

"I have seen all sorts of horses come round Epsom as long as they are travelling well," Cautchen added.

Paulson, who sold 50 per cent of Arazi to Sheikh Mohammed for around \$9 million before that stunning success in Kentucky last November, clearly wants the horse to go for the triple crown. "American racegoers will crucify me if I don't go for it," he said.

The three races — Kentucky Derby, Preakness Stakes and Belmont Stakes — carry a \$5 million bonus, put up by one of Paulson's companies.

However, he knows that Sheikh Mohammed is equally keen to win the Epsom classic for the first time.

Sadly, while Cautchen, Boutin and Paulson went out of their way after the race to help dozens of racing journalists from both sides of the Atlantic, no-one from the Sheikh's highly-paid entourage could be bothered to make an appearance.

Boutin, speaking through an interpreter, said: "During the winter the horse gained in strength. He had a long time off and I was a bit worried about him after his operation, but in the last two weeks he has shown himself to be how he was before. Despite the worries he has come through very well. After this race he will improve another 30 per cent."



Boutin: confident of more improvement

**Saint-Cloud details**

Going soft  
PRIX OMNIUM II (handicap 3-Y-O colts; 112,335 francs)  
1, ARAZI (S. Cautchen); 2, Supermarché (P. Boudier); 3, River Melody (C. Josselin); 4, L'Esprit (S. Cautchen); 5, Star Beam (S. Cautchen); 6, L'Esprit (S. Cautchen); 7, L'Esprit (S. Cautchen); 8, L'Esprit (S. Cautchen); 9, L'Esprit (S. Cautchen); 10, L'Esprit (S. Cautchen); 11, L'Esprit (S. Cautchen); 12, L'Esprit (S. Cautchen); 13, L'Esprit (S. Cautchen); 14, L'Esprit (S. Cautchen); 15, L'Esprit (S. Cautchen); 16, L'Esprit (S. Cautchen); 17, L'Esprit (S. Cautchen); 18, L'Esprit (S. Cautchen); 19, L'Esprit (S. Cautchen); 20, L'Esprit (S. Cautchen); 21, L'Esprit (S. Cautchen); 22, L'Esprit (S. Cautchen); 23, L'Esprit (S. Cautchen); 24, L'Esprit (S. Cautchen); 25, L'Esprit (S. Cautchen); 26, L'Esprit (S. Cautchen); 27, L'Esprit (S. Cautchen); 28, L'Esprit (S. Cautchen); 29, L'Esprit (S. Cautchen); 30, L'Esprit (S. Cautchen); 31, L'Esprit (S. Cautchen); 32, L'Esprit (S. Cautchen); 33, L'Esprit (S. Cautchen); 34, L'Esprit (S. Cautchen); 35, L'Esprit (S. Cautchen); 36, L'Esprit (S. 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Support increased for Norster and Davies

# Welsh rebuild to give players a stronger platform

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

ROBERT Norster and Alan Davies, now confirmed as team manager and coach to Wales up to the 1995 World Cup, will find themselves the focal point of a completely revamped management structure designed to restore Wales to the plateau of international rugby, rather than the valleys the country has occupied of late.

The Welsh Rugby Union (WRU) general committee meets tomorrow for the second time in eight days to discuss elements of the development plan drawn up by Jeff Young, the WRU's technical director. The first phase of Young's plan, already approved, is an interlocking structure directed by a new national player development committee, accountable to the union's general committee.

The most important facet Young, once an international hooker, has identified is the use of playing resources: the need to identify the most talented players and develop their skills for the benefit of the national side, reviving thereby public enthusiasm for the national game.

"We need a national player development committee with the necessary expertise and authority to plan, direct, evaluate and monitor all the administrative, organisational and technical elements associated with the effective performance of national senior squads," Young said. "The great thing is to have time available during the domestic season to prepare squads properly."

"Part of the forward planning is to minimise the conflict of loyalties for players, by

integrating representative and club fixtures." Already the new committee recognises the benefit of a Heineken League with divisions formed of no more than ten clubs, as it is now, rather than as it will be next season, enlarged to 12-club divisions, and has expressed the hope that there will be a reversion to ten-club divisions by 1993-4.

A complete representative programme has been drawn up for senior, development and under-21 squads, each with its own management team. As in Australasia, the team manager will operate in an organisational capacity, leaving selection and coaching to three other individuals. A four-year rolling cycle will take the national side on an important tour at two-year intervals, the development squad on an annual tour and B and under-21 tours at appropriate intervals.

The player development committee will have its own budget and, in the words of Denis Evans, the WRU secretary, who, with Young, John

McLean, Ron Waldron and John Ryan, makes up the committee, "will have the authority to make decisions quickly".

There is little doubt that Norster and Davies have been persuaded by the union's prompt action, as well as by the players themselves, to remain in position. "There is clearly a commitment that the structure will be put in place and that will relieve the burden I was worried about carrying," Davies said.

There has already been informal discussion about gathering information on opponents Wales will meet during the next three years. "We have included a substantial amount in the technical department budget to keep ourselves aware of what is going on in other parts of the world," Young said.

There is, for example, the possibility of sending members of the national management team to Australia this summer, when Scotland and New Zealand are on tour there, given that Australia is Wales's next international opponents.

Norster acknowledges that he could not take on the team manager's role without the support of his employers, Chartered Trust, and that his career with the finance company will be effectively on hold over the next three years. Davies, who runs his own marketing and leisurewear company, is moving back, stock and barrel from Nottingham to Wales. Like the development agencies at the heads of the valleys, they are hoping to restore a smile to the scarred face of the land.



Norster: career on hold

## ANC puts end to visa deadlock

BY CHRIS THAI

AN INTERVENTION by the African National Congress (ANC) shadow minister for sport, Steve Tshwete, has broken a deadlock over visas for six South African players who have been invited to play for the World XV as part of the New Zealand rugby union centenary celebrations.

While Tshwete was in Australia and New Zealand for the cricket World Cup, Muleki George, the chairman of the National Olympic and Sports Congress (Nosc), the sporting arm of the ANC, wrote to the governing bodies of Australia, New Zealand, France and England demanding a ban on the planned tours to and from the Republic.

He claimed the development programme launched by the South African Rugby Football Union (Sarf) last weekend was a smokescreen to provide cover for the international aspirations of the white establishment.

George also said that the Springboks had would cause to be the symbol of South African sport, and would be replaced by the protea, an indigenous flower.

George's assertions were both denied. Danie Craven, the Sarf president, said millions of rands had been spent to develop the game in deprived areas, and the Nosc

chairman, Sam Ramsamy, said that a decision on the Springbok badge will be taken this month.

But in New Zealand, George's letter caused such concern that the rugby football union chairman, Eddie Tonks, met the prime minister to explain the background to the problem, and the New Zealanders were unwilling to issue visas to the South African players without the approval of an ANC official.

Nothing moved until Tshwete picked up the phone and provided the required guarantees for the visas to be issued.

Among the South African players to be invited is Neas Botha, the stand-off half. Simon Poidevin, the Australian flanker, has also been asked to join the party.

Brian Lochore, the coach of the world team, which will play three games against New Zealand, said the two had been approached after Michael Lynagh, of Australia, and Peter Winterbottom, of England, withdrew.

Lochore has secured the Scottish scrum half, Andy Nicol, in place of his original choice from England, Dewi Morris and Richard Hill. The three matches are in Christchurch, on April 18, Wellington, on April 22 and Auckland, on April 25.

## New date causes problems

BY PETER BILLS

SENIOR Harlequins, who had hoped to have a complete break over the Easter holiday period, will decide this weekend whether to play in the rearranged match with Orrell on Easter Monday which could settle the Courage Clubs Championship.

"All our players feel very aggrieved they have been put in this position," Simon Halliday, the England wing, said. "Some of us had looked forward to going away, especially the England players who have had such a long, hard season. But we don't want to be accused of throwing a match because we couldn't be bothered to turn up. It is unfair to have dumped us with the problem."

Halliday says they recognise their obligations to Bath and Northampton, Orrell's only challengers, but that the decision will probably be made on the basis of how the club wishes to plan its build-up to the Pilkington Cup final on May 2. The players may feel that as most of them will be returning to London anyway later on the Monday for work the next day, to return a few hours earlier might be the right decision in terms of ensuring Orrell get a stiff examination.



Alternative route: Plaatjes, who hopes to enter the Barcelona Olympic Games via London

## Plaatjes seeks recognition

BY DAVID POWELL

ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

MARK Plaatjes would prefer not to be running in the ADT London Marathon this weekend. He would rather be in Columbus taking part in the United States trial for the Olympic Games. But he was granted political asylum in the US a few months ago.

"We were given various assurances by the American authorities that he would be declared eligible for the trial, but nothing has come of that," Glenn Latimer, his manager, said.

Columbus's loss is London's gain. Plaatjes, whose quickest run is 2hr 08min 58sec, only two minutes outside the world best, is ready to unleash a quick time.

"Sunday will be my Olympics, I suppose," he said. "I am probably in the best shape I have ever been in."

Long shot though it is, Plaatjes has not thrown in the Olympic towel yet. South African-born but now stateless while awaiting US citizenship, he has asked

Ollan Cassell, the executive director of the Athletics Congress, the US governing body, to explore whether he might run under the International Olympic Committee (IOC) flag.

The former Soviet athletes are competing under the flag and I do not see why I cannot," Plaatjes said. "I qualify for three reasons: I have political asylum, I am stateless and I have made the A [qualifying] standard."

He sees an impressive victory in London on Sunday as his last chance. "It is a wonderful opportunity to get some people to ask some questions," he said. "Maybe that would get the IOC to think about it."

The International Amateur Athletic Federation did, after all, change the qualifying time to accommodate Gelindo Bruni and Steve Monaghan. "At the Winter Olympics there were people on the roster listening to the Olympic flag flying," Latimer said. "Why could not the precedent apply to Mark?"

Though his best time was set in 1985, Plaatjes ran two good marathons last year, winning Los Angeles in 2:10:29 and finishing second in Berlin in 2:11:01. He has been running the circuit since early in 1988, when he was granted political asylum but, because he is serving a five-year wait for citizenship, he cannot compete for the US until next year. The irony is that South African athletes may now compete in the Olympics before he does.

"He was granted asylum based on persecutions and threats to his life in South Africa," Latimer said. He had refused to toe the line of the South African Council of Sport (Sacos), the radical mixed-race body favouring the retention of sanctions. "Sacos was arguing that athletes like Mark should give up their athletic careers for the cause," Latimer said.

Being a runner has saved Plaatjes's life, and is now helping to keep his brother alive. Once, on national strike day, he was training with a friend near Soweto

when a mob mistook them for strike-breakers. "They were going to necklace us," Plaatjes said. In other words, put a rubber tyre around them, douse them in petrol and set them on fire. "We probably ran a 3:30 mile to get away."

Last year he learned that his brother, who brought him up, had cancer. Since then he has spent \$20,000 of his earnings from running on treatment. "They only gave him five months to live and that was March last year," Plaatjes said.

Plaatjes lives with his wife and two daughters in Boulder, Colorado, the altitude training home of many a distance runner. Among them is Britain's Steve Jones, who has benefited from Plaatjes's services as a physiotherapist and trainer with him.

Favour not returned. Jones holds the London course record at 2:08.15. "I had supper at his house on Friday and he did not give me any tips," Plaatjes said. Jones evidently believes that the man with no passport is flying.

### BOWLS

## Stanley hang on to reach triples final

BY GORDON ALLAN

CHRIS Palmer, John Thurbuck and John Leeman, of the Stanley club, Durham, advanced to the final of the Manchester Unity EIBA triples championship at Melton Mowbray yesterday. They defeated Tony Manion, David Wade and Andrew Hunter, of Kingshorpe, Northampton, 21-16 after all but losing a 14-0 lead.

Kingshorpe's first scoring and produced five, and they cut Stanley's lead to a single shot going into the seventh, at which they dropped three. That enabled Stanley to play a defensive eighth. Stanley's opponents today will be Ray Gaskins, Gary Harrington and Ted Hanger, of Brackley, Northamptonshire, who beat Alan Lines, Gerry Smyth and Steve Halmal, of Paddington, 17-9 in a semi-final drawn out to five hours by burnt ends.

In the quarter-finals Stan-

ley survived a tense high-scoring contest with Desborough, Maidenhead, skipped by Peter McGuinness. Scores of six, five and four helped Stanley win 24-20.

Ray Gaskins, Gary Harrington and Ted Hanger, of Brackley, were in good form against Thamesdown, while Paddington were too strong for Erdington Court.

The pairs championship began last night with Gary Smith, of Cyphers — the winner last year with Andy Thomson — teaming with Brian Vickers while Thomson plays in Australia.

Also in the field are Terry Scott and Davie Webb, of Gateshead, the champions two years ago.

RESULTS: Triples: Quarter-finals: Erdington Court 8 Thomson 11, Paddington 15 Halmal 16, Thamesdown 16 Bignall 8, Brackley 6 Hanger 20, Kingshorpe 14, Manion 20, Preston 16, Hayward 10, Stanley 4 Leeman 24, Desborough 16, McGuinness 20, Brackley 16, Stanley 21.

### BRIDGE

## Forrester favoured in Paris challenge

BY ALBERT DORMER

SEVEN British players, a gratifyingly high number, have been invited by the European Bridge League (EBL) to contest a new championship, the General Individual, in Paris next month. The field includes Omar Sharif.

Leading the British challenge is Tony Forrester. He is considered by many to be Europe's strongest player but this is based on performance with regular partners, notably Andy Robson, who is also invited.

Sally Horton will be strongly fancied to carry off the women's prize. Other British invitees who passed the EBL's rigorous master-point criteria are Nicola Smith, Sandra Landy, Tony Sowter and Roman Smolski.

Some observers consider that individual tournaments may be the wave of the future. Players faced with a new partner in each round have no

time to discuss elaborate systems, so simple methods hold sway.

This is seen as raising interest in top performers at grass roots level, which at present is at a low ebb because of impenetrable bidding systems in use.

In addition, it is harder to cheat in an individual contest. With £725,000 (£25,000) to be won in Paris, this has to be a consideration. In two recent championships, however, the Bermuda Bowl in Tokyo and the North American championships in Pasadena, what is a nightmare for the organiser arose, namely the use of secret signals.

Bridge players wishing to contest the pro-am on the final day in Paris, May 15, are invited to contact the British Bridge League secretary, Anna Gudge, on 0787-75720.

### SPORTS MEDICINE

## Council grant will help clinics

BY JOHN GOODBODY

THE new National Sports Medicine Institute (NSMI) is to establish an accredited network of regional clinics to improve the quality of service in Britain. Greg McLatchie, the first medical director of the NSMI based at St Bartholomew's Hospital, London, said yesterday that a number of established centres would be used and pumped with funds for development.

The Sports Council is allocating more than £300,000 this year for sports medicine and a 200 per cent increase over 1991-2, some of which will go on extra equipment and facilities at selected centres. However, it is hoped that local medical authorities or hospitals will invest in sports clinics when they realise how, in the long term, these could be cost effective.

There will be at least five regional centres: in the North East at Harlepool, Durham and Sunderland; in Liverpool, in the capital, using the flourishing set-up at the London Hospital; in Cardiff, where the Welsh secretary has agreed to provide funding; and probably in Nottingham. Each centre will have slightly different priorities and many of the existing sports injury clinics in NHS hospitals could act as satellites to these regional centres.

This will certainly bring some order to the chaos that exists in British sports medicine where there is no overall strategy despite the excellent work of individuals and clinics. Each regional centre would have formal links with the local university or polytechnic with a laboratory accredited by the British Association of Sports Science. This would provide the necessary academic backing and a place for research.

The NSMI is to ask the national governing bodies and local health authorities for their requirements. Sporting organisations will almost certainly put a priority on quick and effective treatment for injuries and a network of centres will certainly help.

The NSMI will initiate research, and promote the importance of sports medicine and particularly education.

McLatchie, a consultant in general and peripheral vascular surgery in Harlepool where he established a sports medicine clinic, was the official doctor to the British karate team, a former British universities weightlifting champion, a marathon runner and a well-known author.

"It is said that sports medicine has been so fragmented over the last ten to 15 years," he said. "However, now there is a sense of purpose and the fact that the NSMI has been founded will draw everyone together."

The International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) Council is likely to decide at its next meeting, in Toronto on May 29, whether to submit the Katrin Krabbe doping case to its arbitration panel. According to the IAAF vice-president, Arne Ljungqvist, who is also head of their medical committee, the council could take such action if it disagrees with the German Athletics Federation's decision to lift the four-year ban.

### TENNIS

## Cash seeks entry to Wimbledon

Tokyo: Pat Cash is to test his theory that former champions should automatically be granted wild cards at Wimbledon by requesting one for the championships this year (Barry Wood writes).

Although he will prepare for Wimbledon at Beckenham and Queen's, Cash's tennis interests are restricted to weekend games next month for a second division German league club in Hamburg. He is building a musical production studio at his London home, and is hoping to include Yannick Noah in a laser music show set to tennis.

Meanwhile, Monique Javer reached the quarter-finals of the Japan Open with a 6-4, 7-5 win over Catarina Lindqvist.

Results, page 31

### EQUESTRIANISM

## Davidson sees his chance

BY JENNY MACARTHUR

BRUCE Davidson, of the United States, riding last year's winning horse, The Irishman II, will be one of the leading overseas contenders for the Mitsubishi Motors Trophy at this year's Badminton Horse Trials from May 7 to 10.

The trials, which this year have a first prize of £20,000 and a prize fund of £100,000 — a record in the sport — have attracted 115 entries from ten countries. New Zealand's entry includes Mark Todd, the dual Olympic champion, with his 1990 Burghley winner, Face The Music, Blyth Tait, the world champion, with Messiah, and Andrew Nicholson, a member of their 1990 gold-medal winning team, with Fast Polisher.

Davidson, the winner of the world championships in 1974 and 1978, has long nursed an ambition to win

the world's premier three-day event. Since finishing runner-up in 1982 on JJ Babu, the closest he has come is sixth in 1986 — again on JJ Babu. In The Irishman, whom he hopes to ride at the Olympic Games, Davidson, aged 42, has a horse to match his experience. The 13-year-old gelding has completed Badminton four times.

The British challenge is led by Virginia Leng, a former world and triple European champion, on her 1989 Badminton winner, Master Craftsman. She, like Mary Thomson with King William, needs a good performance at Badminton to secure her Olympic team place.

The European champion, Ian Stark, Karen Dixon (nee Straker) and Richard Walker have all been excused Badminton with their top horses after their gold-medal win-

ning performance at the European championships last year. Stark, however, intends to compete. "It's my last year of sponsorship by the Edinburgh Woolen Mill and I would very much like to have a horse there," the Scot, aged 38, said yesterday.

He will decide which of the two "exempted" horses he rides — Glenburnie, his European champion, or Murphy Himself, last year's runner-up at Badminton — after competing at Belton and Brigstock Horse Trials. Dixon hopes to ride her young horse, Stepney Bartholomew, after his encouraging performance at Kings Somborne last weekend. Powell has been quick to replace The Irishman. He has three entries — Limmy's Comet, a winner at Kings Somborne, The Fisherman and Valiant.

### YACHTING

## Law experiences pain and pleasure

FROM BARRY PICKTHALL

IN HYERES, FRANCE

CHRIS Law and his Soling crew of Chris Mason and Jerry Richards experienced equal measures of pain and pleasure on their chosen road to the Olympics before crashing out of the British trials at Hyeres yesterday.

## Koch steering well for his rivals

San Diego: The burning desire of Bill Koch, the syndicate head and main financier, to steer his own yachts in the America's Cup defender trials is an in-built weakness of his thorough \$55 million campaign that can be only good news for the challengers (Bob Ross writes).

Although Koch has what should be the fastest yachts in Kazma and America's, Dennis Conner's older yacht, Stars &

The British trio recovered from a lowly 36th on Monday to win the second race, just ahead of Laurie Smith, but then stumbled back to finish the third race in the mid-thirties.

Law, who is making a last-minute thrust for Olympic honours in a class in which he finished fourth in the 1980

Games, has to finish sixth or higher among the foreign teams competing at this French pre-Olympic regatta to qualify for the British match-race selection finals, which are scheduled for Poole later this month.

He and his crew could discard one bad performance but this second poor result

as well. He has been sailing only eight years and, although a competent helmsman in moderate winds, is messy through tacks and around marks. It is this desire to be a helmsman, not a passenger, that is complicating his campaign.

Koch has a splendid grasp of the technology but has not handled the human element

now almost certainly puts them out of the frame for Poole.

By contrast, Smith and his crew of Rob Cruickshank and Ossie Stewart counted a seventh to lead the championship overall and now look assured of winning the British trials.

In the other races yesterday, Stuart Childerley won the Finn class and Barrie Edgington lies second overall among the wind-surfers after counting a third and tenth yesterday.

Penny Way holds third place overall in the women's class following her eleventh and second-place scores. In the 470 fleet, Paul Brotherton and Andy Hemmings finished eighth yesterday but the Times/Minet Supreme Award winners lead the series overall.

Results, page 31

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First division strugglers face vital games

# Wednesday could push Coventry deeper into trouble

By Louise Taylor

TRADING places may be very much in vogue but it is a fashion which Coventry and Southampton are not keen to follow. While people have recently been swapping jobs with others for a day in order to raise money for charity, those clubs are desperate to be part of the new Premier League and enjoy the fruits of its finances.

Coventry are at home to Sheffield Wednesday tonight while Southampton entertain Nottingham Forest. Of the two, Coventry's plight is considerably more serious.

After 36 first division matches, Don Howe's side stand fourth from bottom — three go down — five points better off than Luton Town, in twentieth place, who have played the same number of games.

By contrast, Wednesday — who ironically are using Terry Butcher, the manager sacked by Coventry earlier this year, as a scout — are third from top and pressing for a Uefa Cup place next season. Whatever happens now, though, Trevor Francis, the Wednesday manager, will be well satisfied.

As he said yesterday: "My

directive at the start of the season when we had just come up from the second division was to ensure a place in the Premier League and I'm sure that the other promoted sides, Oldham Athletic, West Ham United and Notts County, would willingly trade places with us. We'll obviously try to collect as many of the 18 points left available to us as possible though."

With 43 points from 35 games, Southampton's position has suddenly improved and victory against Forest tonight would virtually assure their Premier League future. Ian Branfoot's side are without Matthew Le Tissier and Barry Horne, who are both suspended, creating space for Michael Gilkes and Neil Maddison in the starting eleven.

Both Arsenal and Liverpool will attempt to weaken Sheffield Wednesday's credentials for taking that Uefa Cup slot by taking three points. Liverpool, under the charge of Ronnie Moran for the first time since Graeme Souness's hospitalisation, will welcome Dean Saunders back in their attack after suspension

against Wimbledon at Anfield.

The visitors have lost only once at Liverpool since beating them in the 1988 FA Cup final and if they prolong that record it may benefit Arsenal's chances of European involvement next season. Unbeaten in 11 games, Arsenal travel to East Anglia where Norwich City are bound to be demoralised by Sunday's cup semi-final exit against Sunderland.

"I have never seen so many grown men cry as in the dressing room after the semi-final and our season has gone flat," Ian Culverhouse, the Norwich full back, said yesterday. "Now it's up to senior players like myself to rally the younger ones because we are sliding down the table and need to win matches to stop it."

Norwich may be assisted by the fact that Arsenal will be without their injured full backs, Lee Dixon and Nigel Winterburn. The latter's absence is expected to lead to a first-team debut for Steve Morrow after five years at Highbury.

Leicester City can enhance their chances of promotion to the Premier League by defeating the FA Cup finalists, Sunderland, at Ellerslie Street. Brian Little's side improved its prospects of qualifying for the play-offs with last Wednesday's impressive win against Middlesbrough, but suffered a setback with Saturday's defeat at Bristol City. Little, the Leicester manager, is, nevertheless, expected to keep faith with the side that contributed to a good game at Ashton Gate.

Sunderland are without Kevin Ball, who sustained a serious knee injury in Sunday's semi-final against Norwich at Hillsborough, and his place in central defence will almost certainly go to Ian Sampson. Gary Owens and Don Goodman are approaching full fitness but are unlikely to be risked.

Swindon Town can keep their hopes of a play-off place alive by winning at Millwall, in the third division. Peterborough United could do likewise by beating Bournemouth — who also have designs on promotion — at home.

## Taylor declines an offer of help

GORDON Taylor, chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association (PFA), yesterday rejected Howard Wilkinson, the Leeds United manager, as a mediator in the body's dispute with the new Premier League.

John Camkin, chief executive of the League Managers' Association (LMA), suggested that Wilkinson, the LMA chairman, would be the ideal man to help resolve any outstanding points. But Taylor said: "The PFA has to look after its own affairs and we already have Professor Sir John Wood in that very role at the moment. He is an experienced, professional negotiator and, if both sides agree to arbitration, then he would be the man."

Taylor remained optimistic that there will be a successful

outcome to negotiations after a two-hour meeting with Rick Parry, his Premier League counterpart, in Manchester yesterday. "We'll be seeing each other again tomorrow," Taylor said yesterday. "We want to dot the i's and cross the t's on a range of issues."

John Duggan, the chairman of Cabra Estates, the property company that owns Chelsea's Stamford Bridge ground, returned from holiday yesterday and immediately met his professional advisers (Matthew Bond writes).

Duggan is considering a written offer, believed to be up to £13 million, made by Ken Bates, the Chelsea chairman, for SB Property — the Cabra subsidiary that owns Stamford Bridge and Fulham's Craven Cottage.

## Makita event leaving London

By Ian Ross

THE Makita international tournament will be staged outside London for the first time in August when Leeds United will host a competition which has become one of the traditional curtain-raisers to the new English football season.

The teams taking part at Elland Road on August 1 and 2 will be Leeds, Nottingham Forest, Stuttgart and Sampdoria. The Italian club won the tournament last year when it was staged at Highbury.

"This is a great tournament for the supporters who are looking forward optimistically to our club playing in

Europe next season," Howard Wilkinson, the Leeds manager, said.

"We have had three wonderful years here at Elland Road and Europe is the ultimate test for any side. I cannot wait for the challenge."

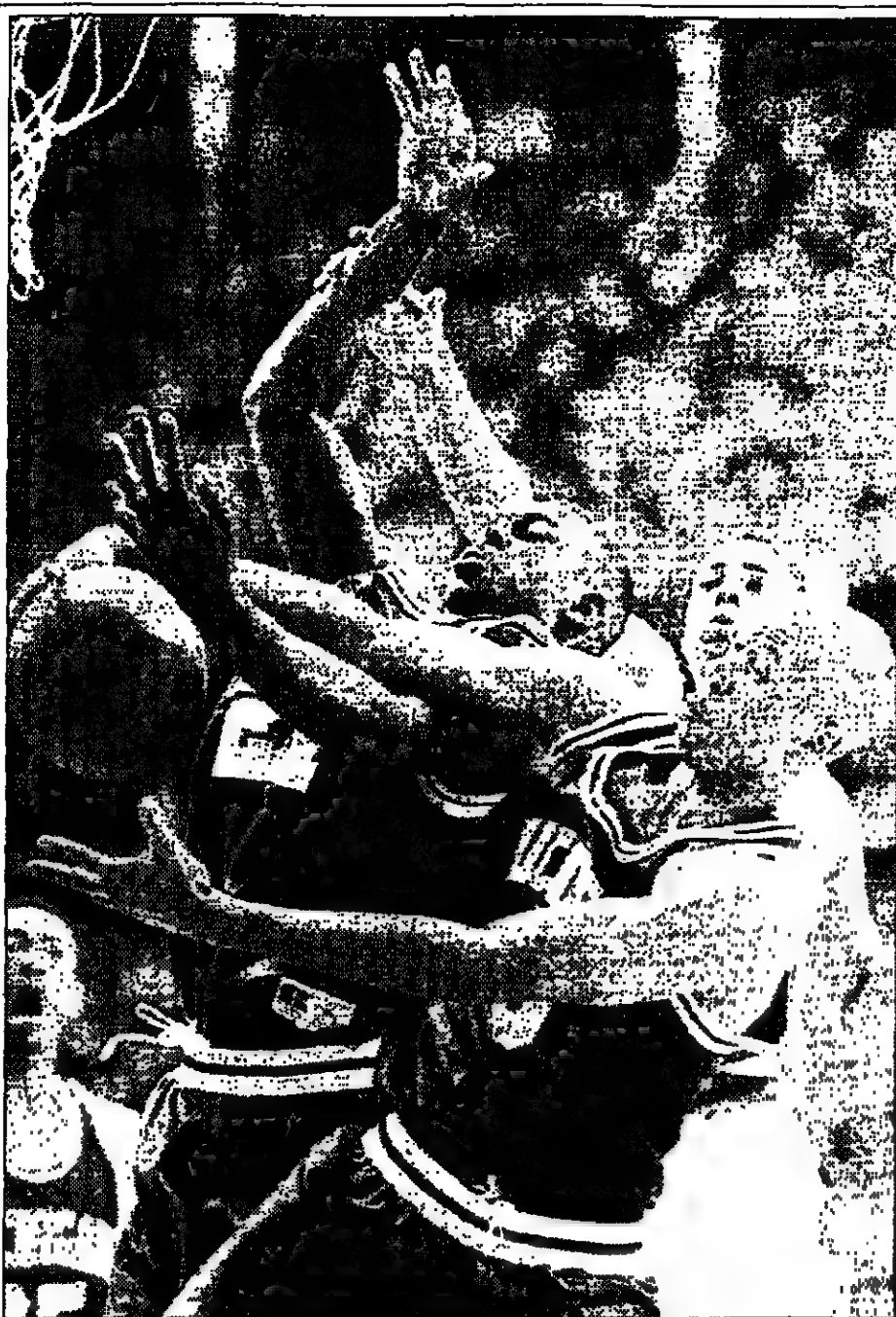
On the opening day, Leeds will play Stuttgart with Forest pitted against Sampdoria. On the Sunday, the two winners will meet in the final, which will be preceded by a play-off for third and fourth places.

Cabre de Gama stayed top of the Brazilian championship after Monday's bad-tempered draw with Portuguesa, which ended with both sides

down to ten men. Two defenders, Cleber, of Portuguesa, and Jorge Luis, of Vasco da Gama, were sent off in the second half of a match marred by the violence of the tackling.

Edmundo scored for Vasco in the seventeenth minute but Nilson, the second top scorer in the competition, equalised two minutes later with his ninth goal in 12 games. Vasco are now one point clear of Botafogo.

Corinthians moved into fourth place behind Bragantino with a 2-0 away win over Bahia. Paulo Sergio and Neto scored the goals for Corinthians.



Brothers in arms: Rose, right, grabs the ball from his Michigan team-mate, Ray Jackson, but their opponents, Duke, seized the final of the US national collegiate basketball tournament 71-51 in Minneapolis

### RUGBY LEAGUE

## Player falls foul of drugs check

By Keith Macklin

A RUGBY league official, David Howes, yesterday confirmed that a player, believed to be with a first division Yorkshire club, is under investigation after failing a random drugs test.

Howes said that a random sample had proved positive and the board of directors would be speaking to the player within the next two weeks. Howes said that in line with normal procedure neither the player nor his club will be named unless he is found guilty of taking prohibited substances.

Rugby league has kept a clean sheet since testing for drugs was introduced five years ago, but Simon Tuffs, a Bradford Northern forward, was involved in a much-publicised case last season after being initially banned for two years.

Tuffs protested that the substance found in his sam-

ple was the result of companions spiking his drink. Several of these companions came forward to attest that this had been the case and the ban was removed, with Tuffs cleared of any guilt.

Since the introduction of the random tests, only seven players have been investigated for alleged taking of prohibited substances. With the exception of Tuffs they were all cleared when it was found that they had unwittingly taken medicines, tonics and other products which were on public sale in chemists' shops which contained such substances. All were severely reprimanded.

The Rugby Football League has issued strongly-worded circulars on the matter to all clubs and players, with the prescribed substances listed, and warning notices have been put up in dressing rooms.

### TENNIS

## Agassi suffers nerves

Barcelona: Andre Agassi lost his 1992 claycourt debut to Jacco Eltingh, of the Netherlands, in the Conde de Godo tournament yesterday.

Agassi lost 6-4, 1-6, 6-1 to Eltingh, who is ranked 94th in the world.

The powerful-serving Eltingh dominated the

match, except for when Agassi briefly forced him into errors in the second set. "The guy played a perfect game at the beginning of the third set to break me and then I got scared to hit the ball," Agassi said. "When it got tight in the third set I couldn't hit, and I feel sad about that."

### IN BRIEF

## Bosnia is too late

Bosnia-Herzegovina has no chance of competing as an independent nation in the summer Olympic Games despite its recognition by the European Community, Juan Antonio Samaranch said yesterday.

It had no national Olympic committee and in any case it was too late to apply, he said on tour in Minsk.

### Seeds tested

Rackets: Robert Wakely and Peter Burke, the fourth seeds, lived dangerously before reaching the semi-finals of the Lacoste British Open doubles championship at Queen's Club after a thrilling tussle with Guy Barker and Alastair Gibson.

### Cut short

Rugby league: Paul Lyman, of Hull Kingston Rovers, will miss the rest of the season after breaking his thumb.

### Avengers

Rugby union: The Welsh women's rugby team play Catalonia at Llandybïe on Saturday hoping to avenge a 4-0 defeat in Barcelona 18 months ago.

### Roche leads

Cycling: Stephen Roche, of Ireland, took over the lead in the five-day Tour of the Basque Country after finishing the same time as the winner of the second stage to Salvatierra, Tony Rominger, of Switzerland.

## Lewis reverts to a subtle approach under new trainer

By Sri Kumar Sen, Boxing Correspondent

IF DEREK Williams — who meets Lennox Lewis for the triple title at the end of this month — has taken videos of Lewis with him to Angelo Dundee's training gym in Miami, he could be surprised to find a totally different Lewis waiting for him at the Albert Hall on April 30.

Under his new trainer, Pepe Correa, aged 51, Lewis has forsaken his over-aggressive, wipe-em-out tactics that his old trainer, John Davenport, had instilled in him, and gone back to the jab-and-run style of his Olympic days.

"Back to his old dancing self," Lewis's manager, Frank Maloney, said.

Lewis said from his training camp at Campion Greenfield, outside Bristol, yesterday: "I've studied my fights and realised I was not using my God-given talents and Pepe has helped me to rediscover the sweet science. 'I know that to continue my quest I have to recapture my old style. Pepe Correa is a trainer of champions. My movements and punches were wrong. I know Pepe can improve me every way."

Correa, who used to be Sugar Ray Leonard's trainer, said: "In boxing the aim is to hit without being hit and you will not have longevity if you walk forward with your chin in the air."

"I am happy to see a young man [Lewis] taking care of his

career. He is not just sitting back like a robot. John Davenport went so far with him but could go no further. I trained champions, and I'll make him a world champion. Lewis can whip anyone in the top ten now. He'll whip Holyfield but he is ducking us. Lennox will be the next heavyweight champion of the world when he gets his chance."

Neither Lewis nor Correa seem particularly concerned at the prospect of Frank Bruno boxing for the world title in the New Year and beating Lewis to the prize prize. Lewis is prepared to wait even up to the end of 1993.

"We don't mind who gets there first," Correa said. "Whoever is the world champion we'll get him."

Yesterday Lewis boxed six rounds with three sparring partners Mike Gans, 18½ stone, Mike Dixon and Mike Simouwell, both 16 stones. The main difference was that he was quicker on his feet and more elusive. To cries of "beateefool!" and "stick, stick" from Correa he boxed much of the time on the retreat, jabbing and slipping punches and thumping the in-coming sparring partner with the big right, once buckling Gans's knees. Williams will be surprised at the variety of new punches that Lewis will reveal on the big night.

## Carr can expect shorter shrift

By Sri Kumar Sen

THE second bout between Henry Wharton, of York, the Commonwealth super-middleweight champion, and Rod Carr, of Australia, at Leeds town hall tonight, should be as explosive as the first one last June. Carr got off the floor twice to push Wharton all the way, but this time the champion intends to see the tough Australian stays down.

"Wharton knocked Carr out of the ring but could not finish him off because he damaged his hand in the eighth round," Wharton's manager, Mickey Duff, said. "But this time I expect Henry to stop him in seven or eight rounds."

Duff explained that Wharton had cut his knuckles so badly when he struck Carr's teeth with a left uppercut that the glove kept filling up with blood. "Every time he lifted his hand blood ran down his arm; every time he hit Carr, both he and Carr were covered in blood," Duff said. "In the end he just couldn't

lift his hand and had to keep it down. Everyone thought he was doing an Ali."

The glove was split but luckily for Wharton the referee did not notice the tear. For the evening the glove he would have seen the extent of the damage to Wharton's hand and stopped the bout in Carr's favour.

Wharton had to receive seven stitches but Duff said the hand will stand up to the job tonight. Wharton certainly had no trouble stopping the tall American, Kenny Schaefer, in one round recently.

He did have problems with Lou Gent in the bout before Schaefer, but Gent is a boxer. Carr being the brawler type will suit Wharton better, for the Englishman likes to meet advancing opponents head on.

It should be a furious affair from the first bell and Wharton, who is unbeaten in 14 contests, will be expected to improve his record by making Carr his eleventh victim inside the distance.

## Title bout scheduled

COLIN McMillan's bid to take the World Boxing Organisation (WBO) featherweight title from Maurizio Stecca, of Italy, has been scheduled for May 16 at Alexandra Palace.

The bout had originally been planned for May 2, but has been switched so that it can be shown on television.

Also on the bill will be Derek Angol, who was recently named as the official challenger for Akim Tafer's European cruiserweight title.

Angol, whose sights are set on a tilt at the vacant WBO crown against Yuri Vaulin, recently gave up the British title but is still Commonwealth champion.

Depth (cm)	Conditions	Runs to resort	Weather	Temp (°C)	Last snow fall
FRANCE					
Chamonix	20 380	good open	sunny	0	5/4
(Gleaser and upper pistes good, 36 lifts operating)					
Châtel	20 130	good poor	sunny	1	5/4
(Excellent skiing on the Linga. Lower runs thin)					
La Clusaz	0 230	mixed closed	sunny	-1	5/4
(Good skiing above 1,500m. Patchy snow below the level)					
Megève	0 195	mixed closed	sunny	-1	5/4
(Skiing above 1,400m very good. Resort runs closed)					
Tignes	125 175	good open	sunny	-2	5/4
(Good spring skiing at all levels)					
AUSTRIA					
Brand	30 210	good open	cloudy	2	6/4
(New snow has added a good layer to all pistes)					
Ischgl	60 250	good open	snow	0	7/4
(Good skiing on fresh snow. All lifts and runs open)					
Sölden	10 225	good open	sunny	-1	7/4
(Good skiing on upper sections of mountain)					
Westendorf	5 175	mixed closed	cloudy	-2	6/4
(Upper runs still very good)					
SWITZERLAND					
Getzard	20 100	mixed poor	sunny	-1	1/4
(Good skiing above mid-station. Lower runs worn)					
Klosters	70 290	good open	cloudy	-1	5/4
(Higher sections very good. Spring snow on lower)					
St Moritz	100 150	good open	cloudy	-2	6/4
(Good skiing on well-prepared runs)					
Zermatt	20 180	mixed open	sunny	0	5/4
(Top runs in very good condition. Lower runs thin)					
ITALY					
C d'Ampezzo	50 200	good open	cloudy	0	6/4
(Fresh snow has improved conditions)					
Ortisei	30 110	good open	cloudy	3	5/4
(Improved conditions thanks to recent snowfall)					
UNITED STATES					
Aspen	100 130	good open	cloudy	1	7/4
(Good spring conditions)					
Vail	140 200	good open	cloudy	0	6/4
(Excellent skiing on soft snow)					

Supplied by Ski Hotline. L and U refer to lower and upper slopes

FOOTBALL	BOWLS	SHOOTING	TENNIS
NEVILLE OVENDEN COMBINATION: West Ham United 1, Southampton 2. Final: Southampton 1, West Ham United 2. Postponed: Bournemouth 1, Southampton 2. First division: Southampton 1, West Ham United 2. Second division: Southampton 1, West Ham United 2. Third division: Southampton 1, West Ham United 2. Fourth division: Southampton 1, West Ham United 2.	MELTON MOWBRAY: Manchester United 1, Liverpool 2. Final: Manchester United 1, Liverpool 2. Postponed: Manchester United 1, Liverpool 2. First division: Manchester United 1, Liverpool 2. Second division: Manchester United 1, Liverpool 2. Third division: Manchester United 1, Liverpool 2. Fourth division: Manchester United 1, Liverpool 2.	KINGSTON, JAMAICA: Teams of six. Final: Jamaica 1, Trinidad 2. Postponed: Jamaica 1, Trinidad 2. First division: Jamaica 1, Trinidad 2. Second division: Jamaica 1, Trinidad 2. Third division: Jamaica 1, Trinidad 2. Fourth division: Jamaica 1, Trinidad 2.	BARCELONA: Spanish Open. First round: Agassi 6-4, Eltingh 6-1. Second round: Agassi 6-4, Eltingh 6-1. Third round: Agassi 6-4, Eltingh 6-1. Fourth round: Agassi 6-4, Eltingh 6-1. Fifth round: Agassi 6-4, Eltingh 6-1. Sixth round: Agassi 6-4, Eltingh 6-1. Seventh round: Agassi 6-4, Eltingh 6-1. Eighth round: Agassi 6-4, Eltingh 6-1. Ninth round: Agassi 6-4, Eltingh 6-1. Tenth round: Agassi 6-4, Eltingh 6-1.
BASEBALL	RACKETS	ICE HOCKEY	YACHTING
NATIONAL LEAGUE: San Diego Padres 4, Cincinnati Reds 3. Postponed: San Diego Padres 4, Cincinnati Reds 3. First division: San Diego Padres 4, Cincinnati Reds 3. Second division: San Diego Padres 4, Cincinnati Reds 3. Third division: San Diego Padres 4, Cincinnati Reds 3. Fourth division: San Diego Padres 4, Cincinnati Reds 3.	QUEEN'S CLUB: British Open. First round: Agassi 6-4, Eltingh 6-1. Second round: Agassi 6-4, Eltingh 6-1. Third round: Agassi 6-4, Eltingh 6-1. Fourth round: Agassi 6-4, Eltingh 6-1. Fifth round: Agassi 6-4, Eltingh 6-1. Sixth round: Agassi 6-4, Eltingh 6-1. Seventh round: Agassi 6-4, Eltingh 6-1. Eighth round: Agassi 6-4, Eltingh 6-1. Ninth round: Agassi 6-4, Eltingh 6-1. Tenth round: Agassi 6-4, Eltingh 6-1.	WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP: Pool B. Final: China 3, Romania 3. Postponed: China 3, Romania 3. First division: China 3, Romania 3. Second division: China 3, Romania 3. Third division: China 3, Romania 3. Fourth division: China 3, Romania 3.	REMINGTON FAMILY CHAMPIONSHIP: Final: Agassi 6-4, Eltingh 6-1. Postponed: Agassi 6-4, Eltingh 6-1. First division: Agassi 6-4, Eltingh 6-1. Second division: Agassi 6-4, Eltingh 6-1. Third division: Agassi 6-4, Eltingh 6-1. Fourth division: Agassi 6-4, Eltingh 6-1.
BASKETBALL	SQUASH RACKETS		
NCAA MEN'S TOURNAMENT: Duke 71, Michigan 51.	H-TEC BRITISH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP: Final: Agassi 6-4, Eltingh 6-1. Postponed: Agassi 6-4, Eltingh 6-1. First division: Agassi 6-4, Eltingh 6-1. Second division: Agassi 6-4, Eltingh 6-1. Third division: Agassi 6-4, Eltingh 6-1. Fourth division: Agassi 6-4, Eltingh 6-1.		

SHOOTING	TENNIS
KINGSTON, JAMAICA: Teams of six. Final: Jamaica 1, Trinidad 2. Postponed: Jamaica 1, Trinidad 2. First division: Jamaica 1, Trinidad 2. Second division: Jamaica 1, Trinidad 2. Third division: Jamaica 1, Trinidad 2. Fourth division: Jamaica 1, Trinidad 2.	BARCELONA: Spanish Open. First round: Agassi 6-4, Eltingh 6-1. Second round: Agassi 6-4, Eltingh 6-1. Third round: Agassi 6-4, Eltingh 6-1. Fourth round: Agassi 6-4, Eltingh 6-1. Fifth round: Agassi 6-4, Eltingh 6-1. Sixth round: Agassi 6-4, Eltingh 6-1. Seventh round: Agassi 6-4, Eltingh 6-1. Eighth round: Agassi 6-4, Eltingh 6-1. Ninth round: Agassi 6-4, Eltingh 6-1. Tenth round: Agassi 6-4, Eltingh 6-1.
ICE HOCKEY	YACHTING
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP: Pool B. Final: China 3, Romania 3. Postponed: China 3, Romania 3. First division: China 3, Romania 3. Second division: China 3, Romania 3. Third division: China 3, Romania 3. Fourth division: China 3, Romania 3.	REMINGTON FAMILY CHAMPIONSHIP: Final: Agassi 6-4, Eltingh 6-1. Postponed: Agassi 6-4, Eltingh 6-1. First division: Agassi 6-4, Eltingh 6-1. Second division: Agassi 6-4, Eltingh 6-1. Third division: Agassi 6-4, Eltingh 6-1. Fourth division: Agassi 6-4, Eltingh 6-1.
SQUASH RACKETS	
H-TEC BRITISH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP: Final: Agassi 6-4, Eltingh 6-1. Postponed: Agassi 6-4, Eltingh 6-1. First division: Agassi 6-4, Eltingh 6-1. Second division: Agassi 6-4, Eltingh 6-1. Third division: Agassi 6-4, Eltingh 6-1. Fourth division: Agassi 6-4, Eltingh 6-1.	

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WEDNESDAY APRIL 8 1992

England international denies rumours

## Platt's priority is to help Bari avoid the drop

BY LOUISE TAYLOR

DAVID Platt yesterday refuted rumours that he will be joining Napoli for £5.7 million this summer and insisted his only concern was to help keep his present football club, Bari, in Serie A of the Italian League.

The England midfielder player, who joined Bari from Aston Villa last summer but has already been linked with Roma and Juventus, said his only interest in Napoli — Diego Maradona's old club — was beating them this weekend to boost Bari's survival chances. With seven matches left to play, 16th-placed Bari are in serious danger of dropping into Serie B and Platt said: "All I am interested in is Bari staying in Serie A. Suddenly three consecutive defeats have made the job harder, but I still believe that we will stay up, particularly if we beat Napoli at home."

"We need the Bari supporters to be totally behind us, particularly during the last three home games. They have been wonderful during this difficult season and we intend to repay them with effort and commitment and hopefully two points on Sunday."

"At times of problems it is important to stand together. I am captain of the team and it is my responsibility to set the right example to my teammates. This I will do."

"But we must all be positive. Once we can overcome the problems of this season, Bari will then grow stronger with every passing year until it becomes one of the top clubs in Italy."

"Our president has a vision of success and everyone at the club wants to help him achieve it."

"I love Italy and the football out here, but the speculation is incredible. According to certain newspapers I have already signed for half-a-dozen other Italian clubs."

Platt's old club will have to do without Dwight Yorke for its Easter programme. Aston Villa's leading scorer will miss the first division matches at Nottingham Forest on April 18 and at home to Chelsea on Easter Monday in order to represent Trinidad and Tobago in their World Cup qualifier against Barbados on April 19. He flies out to the Caribbean next week.

Trevor Steven seems destined to remain in the south of France with Marseille rather than return to Glasgow and Rangers. The England international midfielder player joined Marseille from Rangers for £5.5 million last August but the French club still owed the final installment and Rangers had warned that he would become their property again unless they paid up by May 31.

But yesterday Marseille agreed to pay the remaining £2.5 million, and keep Steven. After talks in Edinburgh with a French delegation, David Murray the owner of Rangers, said yesterday: "We are delighted the matter has been concluded successfully."

"We would have taken Trevor back if Marseille had not come up with the money for we would not have seen him left out in the cold. This is the end of the matter as far as we are concerned."

Cliff Borge Jupp Heynckes, the former German international, yesterday confirmed that he would sign a two-year contract on Saturday as coach of Athletic Bilbao, the Spanish first division club, from the start of next season.

"If I don't leave Germany now, I will never do so," Heynckes, aged 46, said, revealing that he had rejected several offers from Bundesliga clubs. Heynckes, who played 39 times for West Germany in the 1970s, was dismissed by Bayern Munich, as coach, last October.

Heynckes said that Barcelona's Dutch coach, Johan Cruyff, had encouraged him to move to Bilbao. Cruyff told him: "You have to take that job. It (Bilbao) is one of the best organised clubs in the Spanish League."

## Pearce doubts increase

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

TIME is running out for Stuart Pearce in his bid to lead Nottingham Forest in the Rumbelow Cup final on Sunday. He is out of tomorrow night's game at Southampton, the fourth match he has missed since sustaining a knee against them in the ZDS Cup, 10 days ago.

Pearce is recovering from surgery but since his operation, two more key defenders, Gary Charles and Steve Chettle, have joined their inspiring captain on the injury list.

Forest have slogged

through four games in a week, but it has not stopped their manager, Brian Clough, strongly criticising his back line which has allowed in ten goals in those four games.

Clough said: "I'm absolutely fed up with it. I know we've been stretched a bit in the last week or so but I've never come across a side yet who get anywhere by letting in goals at the rate we are at the moment."

Clough's patched-up team, also likely to be without Roy Keane and Teddy Sheringham, who are both

injured, tomorrow night, faces a Southampton side which has won its last six league games to climb out of relegation trouble.

Ian Branfoot, the manager, is still without Matthew Le Tissier and Barry Horne, suspended, but would love some revenge for the ZDS defeat in extra time at Wembley.

Clough is adamant about his priority at The Dell: "I'd like to get back to something resembling a clean sheet," he said. He may be tempted to give the goalkeeper, Mark Crossley, the chance to stake a Rumbelow Cup claim.

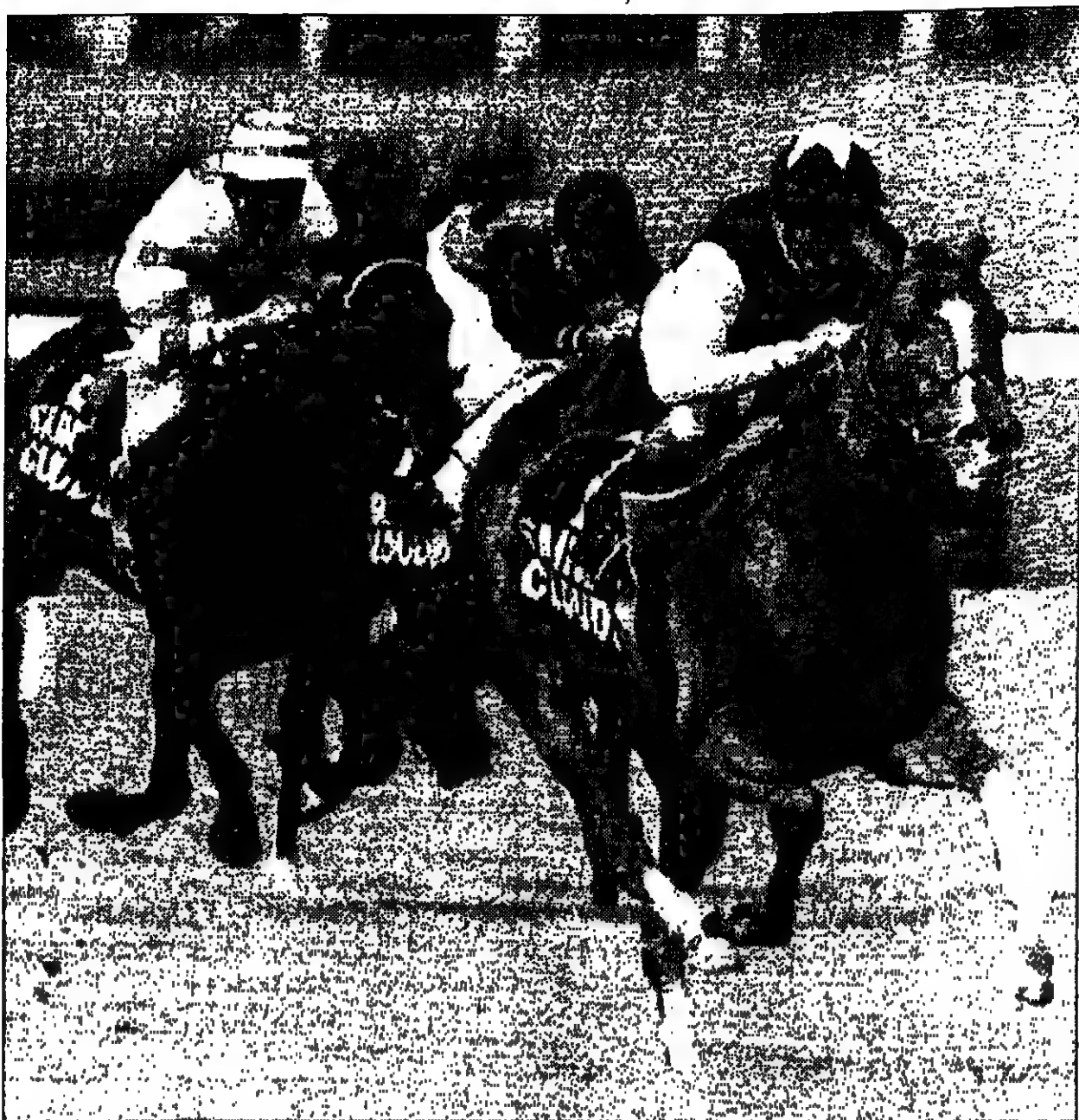
Crossley was replaced by 20-year-old Marriott after his error put Forest out of the FA Cup at Portsmouth. It was later revealed that Crossley had spent the previous night in police custody.

Orlando McDonald's Corporation said it would become the ninth sponsor of the 1994 World Cup. "This represents our first global sponsorship of a sporting event," David Green, vice-president of marketing, said in Orlando on Monday.

A full sponsorship of the World Cup gives companies four signboards. McDonald's agreed to a two-board sponsorship, estimated to cost \$18-20 million. McDonald's joins Canon, Coca-Cola, Fuji, Gillette, JVC, MasterCard, Mars, and Philips. One sponsorship spot remains open.

The month-long tournament, starting June 17, 1994, expects to draw 3.5 million fans and 31 million television viewers.

More football, page 31



Different class: Arazi treats his Saint-Cloud rivals with disdain as he wins unextended by five lengths

## Arazi's owners still at odds

FROM RICHARD EVANS  
RACING CORRESPONDENT  
IN PARIS

ARAZI was made hot favourite for the Derby on both sides of the Atlantic after a breath-taking seasonal reappearance in France yesterday.

But the unanswered question last night was whether Allen Paulson and Sheikh Mohammed, joint owners of the "wonder horse", will be able to reach agreement on where the horse runs.

Paulson, who sold half of

Arazi to the Dubai sheikh last summer for an estimated \$9 million, is anxious to win the Kentucky Derby at Churchill Downs on May 2 before attempting to complete the other two legs of the American Triple Crown. Victory in the three races carries a \$5 million bonus.

Sheikh Mohammed has never had a horse even placed in the Epsom Derby despite an investment in bloodstock running into hundreds of millions of pounds and he is desperate for Arazi to run in

the world's most famous race on June 3, after his Kentucky appearance.

A decision over Arazi's race programme will be taken after he runs at Churchill Downs next month. Francois Boulton, trainer of the world's best horse, may have to arbitrate if the owners cannot agree.

Paulson said after yesterday's race: "American racegoers will crucify me if I don't go for the Triple Crown."

Ladbrokes offer events, with a run, against Arazi winning

at Epsom while Corals go 3-1 without the proviso. William Hill offer a best-priced 5-4 against a Kentucky Derby victory.

Steve Cauthen, who guided Arazi to an effortless victory in the Prix Omnium II at Saint-Cloud, compared the Blushing Groom colt to a firm, on whom he won the Triple Crown in 1978. "It is like riding in a Cadillac," he said. "Potentially, he has the scope to be a great horse."

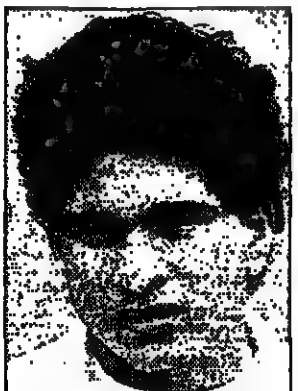
Full report, page 29

## Tendulkar likely to miss five games

SACHIN Tendulkar, Yorkshire cricket club's first overseas signing, is likely to miss the first five matches of the season. The Indian Test batsman, aged 18, is contracted to play in Bombay.

Though the Yorkshire chief executive, Chris Hassell, is aiming to solve the problem, it seems Tendulkar's first appearance will be delayed until April 30, when the county entertains Kent in the Benson and Hedges Cup.

Meanwhile, Imran Khan,



Tendulkar: start delayed

the Pakistan captain, hinted that the shoulder injury that troubled him during the World Cup might prevent him from playing in his side's tour of England this summer.

"I damaged the shoulder a lot playing in Australia for about five weeks," he said in a television interview in Islamabad yesterday. "The post-Imran era may come very soon."

This year's winners of the NatWest Trophy will receive a record prize of £27,500 — around £5,000 more than Pakistan collected for beating England in the World Cup final. Total prize-money for cricket's premier one-day knockout competition this summer has been increased to £73,350 — up £2,500 on last year.

Hampshire, the champions, are at home to Dorset in the first round on June 24.

The close of play has been extended from 7.30pm to 8pm to accommodate delayed or interrupted matches this season and over-rate fines have also been increased.

## Tszyu could be a contender

IT TOOK just 70 seconds to convince Australian professional boxing that the young Russian junior welterweight, Kostya Tszyu, was, in the words of the country's top trainer, "a kid in a million."

Johnny Lewis, trainer of Jeff Fenech, the world champion, had told Tszyu before his first professional bout that he had to win the first round to show his opponent he was the master.

"I wanted him to show off his skills for a few rounds," Lewis said. "He misunderstood; he thought I wanted him to finish it quickly." A flurry of lefts and rights put Darrell Hiles, Australia's leading boxer at the weight, out for the count.

The contest in Melbourne was Tszyu's first since arriving in Australia from his Urala home in Serov, 1,500 kilometres east of Moscow, to join the Lewis boxing stable. A month later Tszyu dispelled any lingering doubts about his professional potential when he demolished Ned Simmons, the tough Guyanese Canadian, in just 58 seconds.

Lewis, who has helped

Fenech win world titles in three divisions, had been excited by Tszyu's skills when he watched him fight as an amateur in Moscow three years ago. "In many years of watching amateur boxing I had never seen his equal," Lewis said.

In November Tszyu came to Sydney and outpointed American Vernon Forrest with breathtaking ease to win the light-welterweight (63.5kg) gold at the world amateur championships.

"Pound for pound he's the best I have ever seen, which isn't a bad qualification for turning professional," Lewis said.

The 22-year-old Russian southpaw was already a hero back home with a formidable amateur record — a world title, three European championships and a US Goodwill Games gold medal in his record of 259 wins in 270 fights.

With the help of local promoter Bill Morley, Tszyu was persuaded to give up the chance of almost certain gold at this year's Barcelona Olympics to turn professional under Lewis.

## A rough ride for home captain

FROM RICHARD STREETON  
KINGSTON, JAMAICA

RAUCOUS booing by the 11,000 spectators greeted Richie Richardson, the West Indies captain, as he walked out to bat against South Africa in the first of the one-day cricket internationals here yesterday. It was an unprecedented demonstration against a captain by a home crowd.

Richardson was clearly blamed for the West Indies lack of success in the World Cup and for recent controversial selection policies.

The booing and jeers continued unabated as Richardson made a sketchy start before the pressure on him was eased as Phil Simmons made a brilliant, attacking hundred. South Africa, who chose to field first, were left helpless as they tried to stem the flow of runs. West Indies finished with 287 for six in their 50 overs.

When Simmons finally skied a catch to extra cover in the 43rd over, he had hit five sixes and twelve fours and faced only 113 balls as he made 122. Most of his runs came from fiercely struck drives. One of his sixes, a straight hit against Henry, went out of the ground.

Richardson had to come through a torrid examination by Donald before he began to find his touch. He sensibly allowed Simmons his head as he contributed 30 of the 105 they added for the third wicket. Richardson was then leg before to Kuiper and returned to the pavilion amid further booing.

Overcast, humid conditions before the sun emerged later may have persuaded West Indies to give West Indies first use of a hard pitch, which, though, played more slowly than expected. Donald's direction was variable as he strove for maximum pace and the first round definitely went to West Indies. They reached 64 for one in the crucial first 15 overs.

Lara batted fluently from the start and continued to find the gap after Haynes was out in the seventh over. Haynes flicked Donald off his legs and Henry took a good catch at backward square leg.

Henry, the left-arm spinner, did not get much help from the pitch but he varied his trajectory skilfully. The second wicket had added 72 in 17 overs when Henry induced Lara to drive a catch to mid on.

Outside the ground before the start the first protest on the tour had come when a fan with two loudspeakers on his roof drove past blaring the message: "Don't let cricket fool you. Cricket doesn't solve anything. We want black majority rule in South Africa and Nelson Mandela for president." Most of the spectators waiting to enter the ground hardly seemed to notice the incident.

WEST INDIES  
D.L. Harrison c Henry b Donald 50  
D.L. Harrison c Wessels b Henry 50  
P.V. Simmons c Wessels b Kuiper 122  
R.B. Richardson lbw b Kuiper 30  
K.L. T. Anderson c Wessels b Donald 27  
C.L. Hooper not out 29  
W.K.M. Benjamin c Wessels b Kuiper 8  
C.E.L. Ambrose not out 28  
Extras (b 1, lb 5, w 12, nb 4) 22  
Total (8 wickets, 50 overs) 287  
J.D. Williams, A.C. Cummins and B.P. Patterson did not bat.  
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-32, 2-104, 3-206, 4-238, 5-277, 6-287.  
BOWLING: Donald 10-1-47-2, Street 10-1-59-2, van Zyl 8-2-53-0, Henry 10-0-53-1, Cronje 10-1-52-0, Kruger 4-0-22-0, Kuiper 5-0-33-5.  
SOUTH AFRICA: W.K.M. Benjamin, A.C. Cummins, P.N. Krieger, A.P. Kuiper, W.J. Cronje, J.N. Rhodes, D. Harrison, D.J. Richardson, C.J.P. van Zyl, A.P. Smith, A.A. Donald.  
Umpires: S. Bucknor and G. Johnson.

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10/1	7-12	7/1
20/1	13-18	8/1
25/1	19-24	12/1
33/1	25-30	14/1
50/1	31-36	25/1
66/1	37-42	50/1
80/1	43-48	66/1
100/1	Groups of 6 between 49-102	100/1
300/1	103 and over	300/1
NO OVERALL MAJORITY 8/13		

To gain an overall majority  
11/10 LABOUR 7/1 CONSERVATIVE  
To win most seats  
1/5 LABOUR 3/1 CONSERVATIVE  
400/1 LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

No. of Liberal Democrats Seats  
0 1000/1 16-20 4/1 36-40 8/1  
1-5 100/1 21-25 9/4 41-45 40/1  
6-10 33/1 26-30 9/4 46-50 45/1  
11-15 20/1 31-35 3/1 51-60 50/1  
50/1 Liberal Democrats to exceed 60 seats

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FROM MITCHELL PLATT  
GOLF CORRESPONDENT  
IN AUGUSTA, GEORGIA

TOM Watson believes that being appointed the American Ryder Cup captain has improved his play and increased his prospects of winning the 56th Masters, which starts at Augusta National here tomorrow.

Watson, winner of the Masters in 1977 and 1980, brought an end to five years without a win when he captured the Hong Kong Open last month. The five-times Open champion is the first to admit that winning the Masters is a different proposition, but he is convinced that

he has, at the age of 42, a wonderful chance.

"I was honoured to be made the Ryder Cup captain," he said. "In a way I really believe it's help my play. I've been watching other players with the match in mind, and somehow the distraction seems to have helped me."

"It seems like this year I've not been hitting the ball particularly well, but I've been getting the job done. I think I'm a little more relaxed about it and it's helping. I'm finding that I'm playing each hole as an event in itself, rather than trying to think of the swing too much."

Watson became preoccupied with his alignment, grip

and swing during his slump.

Twelve months ago Watson came within a whisker of turning his career around when he stood on the 18th tee at Augusta sharing the lead with Ian Woosnam. He had had eagles at the 13th and the 15th. But Watson pushed his drive with a three-wood into the woods and finished with a six.

"If it was the only thing I was ever known for then, I would get tired of talking about it," Watson said. "I'm sure would have been tougher to take if I hadn't all the victories to even things out. Then again, losing last year's Masters is one of my great disappointments."

Watson said it was not the

three-wood shot alone which cost him the chance of winning. "I hit a stupid second shot," he said. "I should have laid up 40 yards or so short of the bunker, when instead I hit it into the trap where my ball was dead."

Watson has found it increasingly difficult to handle the pressure when in contention. In Hong Kong he held a healthy lead but he took three puts on three occasions, which illustrated the frailty of his putting stroke.

Even so, he putted well in The Players Championship two weeks ago when he finished joint-second with Nick Faldo behind Davis Love III. He also scored a 63 earlier this year in San Diego, where

he was watched in a tournament for the first time by his children. "It inspired me," he said. "It gave me more desire to play well."

Watson has always played well at Augusta. He has finished out of the top ten only three times in 17 appearances as a professional. "I've always felt that I had a pretty good game plan to play the course," he said.

"Augusta is a special golf course with a lot of history. I've been fortunate to play well here and I have a lot of memories. I would like another one this week, but then everybody would, wouldn't they?"



Watson: more relaxed

Masters focus, page 29

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MODERN TIMES

Glamorous  
and sordid  
lives of  
Mafia women



# LIFE & TIMES

WEDNESDAY APRIL 8 1992

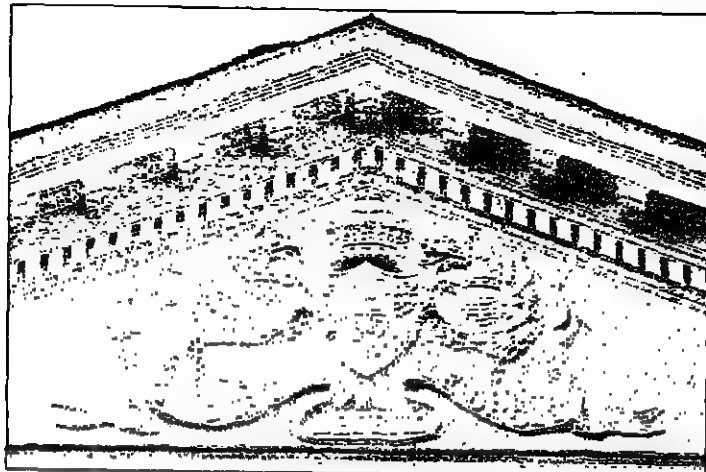
SCIENCE

Quarrying:  
threat to  
the British  
countryside



A rough  
ride for  
home  
captain

## The marks of Spencer's reign



The Spencer family motto, 'God defend the right'

**George Hill considers the inheritance of the 9th Earl Spencer and whether his management of Althorp will be less controversial than his father's**

**A** gilded nest, Lord St John of Fawsley called it in his address at the funeral service. Gilded past all recognition, and denuded of its less garish and most precious treasures to pay for the glitter, critics complain.

The 8th Earl Spencer, who was buried among his ancestors last week, has left a more controversial mark than any of them on Althorp, the great house which has been the home of the Spencers for nearly 500 years. His death closes a bitter family quarrel, but the changes made during his ownership will be argued over as long as the house survives.

Exactly how drastic they were, and what the financial implications may be, is still known to few. Even the new Lord Spencer and his advisers may not be in a position to work out immediately what options are open to them after the activities, at once flamboyant and surreptitious, of the last earl and his countess.

For the present, quite naturally, public comment from the family has been minimal. The house will remain closed to the public for mourning until after Easter, but there is every intention of reopening it again afterwards.

Althorp's contents — inherited, bought and set in order by the present earl's grandfather, a notable collector and connoisseur — were so exceptionally fine that all the enclaves of the last 17 years have still left the house rich in paintings and furnishings. Van Dycks, Gainsboroughs, furniture, silver, archives, and solid-gold ice-pulls have gone, but other Van Dycks and Gainsboroughs, several Rubenses, and portraits of three generations of Spencers by Reynolds still apparently hang on its walls. *War and Peace*, the finest of all Althorp's Van Dycks, is still in its place.

Some in the saleroom world hint that matters are getting so bad financially that Althorp may yet have to be sold outright. This would be a final irony, when its former master and mistress were so strenuous in their claims that their sales and refurbishments (to the tune of £2 million) were necessary to save a house structurally and financially in precarious straits.

The real state of affairs ought to be far less desperate, given the new earl's evident commitment to the integrity of the house, and the differences between his financial

position and his father's. The house now has an estate worth £50m behind it, put in trust for the present earl by his grandfather, to escape inheritance tax. This was not available to his father. But it may be true that the sales of treasures worth millions were little or no help in securing the house and its remaining collections. In the complex network of tax bargains which tends to accumulate around a great house today, it is quite possible to sell in such a way that tax liabilities can swallow up the gains.

Some of the sales were certainly odd. Instances abound of works of art of the highest quality sitting on the market and being sold for a fraction of the price they would have fetched with more publicity. A single painting by Andrea Sacchi sold to a dealer for £40,000 was promptly sold on to the Metropolitan Museum for £270,000. The device of private treaty sale (enabling objects to be sold to the state, with tax advantages, on terms allowing them to remain in the houses they have been associated with) was mystifyingly ignored several times.

As for the refurbishments, there are two views about that. Lovers of antiques who watched the house change under the hands of Johnny Spencer and his wife Raine speak with anguish of what has been done.

From one perspective, the story of Althorp is a cautionary tale for owners about the dangers of some bad advice, and a warning for legislators who seek to create a framework capable of protecting great houses without laying prohibitive restrictions on owners. It raises the question of whether an Englishman's home is still his castle, if it happens actually to be a castle.

In itself, there is nothing unusual or shocking about owners of great houses making changes, nor about their selling chattels. Most of us like to leave a personal mark on our homes; some of us find ourselves in financial tight corners where selling the silver candlesticks may be the least of evils. Some of the furor over Althorp springs from the vicarious hoarding impulse of those who see country houses as a kind of visionary realm, where change can only be for the worse, and disposals are a kind of theft from a hoard which belongs to us all. They tend not to ask for whom the auctioneer's hammer falls: they are convinced that it falls on their own



The new Earl and Countess Spencer come to an Althorp denuded of many of its great treasures but with an estate worth £50 million which the late earl could not use

heritage. Yet for centuries owners have high-handedly discarded their ancestors' work, to replace it with the fashion of their own time. It is proverbial that the place to look for a house's best pieces of furniture is in the attic, where they will have been consigned in the last refurbishment, or the last but one. Without this process, with its gains and its losses, many of the country's finest schemes of decoration and architectural second thoughts would never have happened.

**N**ot until the last century did owners begin to show much sense of historical perspective in the way they treated their inheritances. In this century historical respectfulness has gained ground steadily, and today's prevailing wisdom favours a level of deference towards the craftsmanship of the past that ancestral squires would have found pusillanimous.

"We value the patina of age today," says Peter Sinclair, the editor of *Historic Houses* magazine. "We have grown used to an atmosphere that really rather faded image of the country house. It gives us a shock to see an old picture-frame newly gilded, even though it looks much more like it would have done when it was new."

Is it conceivable that Raine Spencer's refurbishments may one day be seen as a rare and admirable instance of self-confidence in the timid late 20th century? Even if it is inconceivable, how far did she have a right to transform the house she found, to suit her comfort and express her taste? It is undeniable that much of the hostility she aroused had more to do with

snobbish distaste than aesthetics.

Lord Shelburne, the president of the Historic Houses Association (vulgarily known as the states-home owners' trade union) strongly affirms that change is natural in a great house. "If you look at the evolution of all these places, nearly every owner has done something to leave his mark. It is healthy and good that everything is not stultified by too many controls. But if owners are free to make changes, sometimes they will do things which are not to everybody's taste."

As landed property has become a less reliable revenue earner, he says, owners have found it harder to make ends meet. Since 1980 agricultural prices have halved in real terms. Grants for repairs from English Heritage have halved in just three years, he claims. "If there is too little income, then either you must generate revenue in new ways, which can be difficult, or sell something from time to time to clear down the debt — or sell the whole damned lot in one go," Lord Shelburne says. "It can be a nightmare to own one of these things. There is a real fear now that the privately-owned heritage may disappear in a few generations."

Lord Shelburne means to ask the next government for two relief measures for his members. One is to relieve repairs to all listed buildings of the burden of VAT, through zero rating. The other is for funds run by independent trustees, into which owners have irrevocably transferred assets for the maintenance of their houses, to be exempted from income tax and capital gains tax.

These reforms might not have seemed much to the point to the 8th

earl and his countess. Their bizarre actions are only comprehensible in the context of the framework bequeathed by the 7th earl. Their protestations about the burden of death duties are puzzling in view of the reported preoccupation of the 7th earl, the present earl's grandfather, with the protection of the family inheritance.

He was well aware of the inheritance laws. These have made provision since the last century for property and items of outstanding value, if open to the public, to pass tax-free from father to son under "conditional exemption". The exemption is "conditional" because if the items are sold at a later stage, the tax has to be paid after all.

The inference must be that the earl and countess chose to forego exemptions to leave their hands free to sell. Whether they gained or lost by this is a secret that may never be known except to the family and the taxman.

Substantial tax liabilities may still be outstanding. Some items were sold at a fraction of their real value, apparently to avoid the publicity of an auction or private treaty sale.

At the same time, revenue-raising efforts at the house were geared up to an intensity which many onlookers found degrading. The house was advertised like a hotel ("Weddings, 21st birthdays, business or private lunches and dinners out specialty..."), and a Japanese property company was given permission to use the name "Royal Spencer" for a chain of golf clubs.

In his concern to minimise inheritance duties, the 7th earl arranged for the bulk of the estate to pass to his grandson, while

leaving Althorp itself to his son. Under the ancient system of inheritance misleadingly known as primogeniture, everything was destined eventually to come to the present earl, the youngest of his father's four children.

The last earl inherited the house, and the responsibilities that went with it, but was unable to make calls on the estate for its upkeep, nor for his other children. He used to speak publicly of his concern to make provision for the two of his three daughters who had not had the luck to marry into royalty.

His actions suggest a bashful and naive attempt to provide for them without resorting to the major sale he knew would have grieved his own father. When questioned last year about his family's disagreements over the sales, he replied in evident distress that his children were ungrateful. If his efforts to provide for them are the key to the

story, it is a sad irony that he blundered into a predicament where he angered them, squandered for a fraction of its value much of the inheritance his father had entrusted to him, and called down a greater deluge of hostile and derisive publicity than any other course of action could have done.

As Lord Shelburne observes, it can be a nightmare to own one of these things.

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### TOMORROW

The election: day of reckoning

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## Driving Mr Fixit well round the S-bend

**O** ne of the consolations of getting older is that one day you look in your address book and find you have acquired a list of specialists (hairdresser, mechanic, hypnotherapist, carpet-layer) whom you can mention in conversation and pass on to your friends. "Try, my dear Nose and Throat man," you say, off-handedly. Or, "My acupuncturist knows an aromatherapist who recommends a plumber who could really help you with that!" Gosh, it makes you feel sophisticated. And at the same time, of course, it helps you fill the rather big address book (with pussy-cats on) that somebody gave you for Christmas.

I now have a builder, a carpenter, a gas man, and a painter and decorator. Most exciting of all, however, is the handsome "24-hour emergency gardener", whose services I unfortunately rarely need. I sometimes think of him in the small hours, though, and picture him trouble-shooting in a dark garden somewhere, fashing daffs to splints in a high wind, looking Lawrentian. Should I call up with a bogus middle-of-the-night problem? "Thank God you're there!" I might say, feigning a verge-of-tears voice. "It's — er, a 24-hour emergency! And here I am, clothed only in these — er, diaphanous jim-jams,

unequal to the struggle with the elements!"

The only glaring hole in my list of blokes is under "window cleaner", because the local chap simply refuses to clean my windows, on the grounds (I think) that I didn't register with him in 1948. "Excuse me," I say periodically, pretending that the idea is quite a new one, and that we have never had the conversation before. "You wouldn't do my windows, would you?" He looks down at me from his position on the ladder, and just says "No", but he packs the word with an impressive degree of hostility and affront. My question seems to offend him; I don't know why. I mean, he is a window-cleaner.

I mention all this because it is a great advantage of the single life to be able to say "There is something wrong with the heating; I think I'll get a man in", without having to negotiate with the boyfriend first. Boyfriends, I find, tend to reply "No, let me take a look, I'm sure it's straightforward," and end up emptying the S-bend onto their shoes at three in the morning. However competent the boyfriend, the sight of him with his head in the gas cupboard and the sound of bang-clink-Cops! is enough to make my blood run cold. "What do you mean, Cops?" I say, dancing about

### SINGLE LIFE

**Lynne Truss on the thrill of calling up a handyman or two**



in panic. "Nothing." "You said Cops!" "No I didn't." "You did." The trouble is that you start to identify with the boyfriend's tussle with his ego, which is getting out of hand. And strangely, no amount of hand-wringing or helpful why-don't-you-call-it-a-day noises make his tussle any easier. "It's just this last hole," he says grimly, after a day of constant drilling, and you peek aghast into a room filled with

brick dust and a wall that has been drilled so many times it resembles pegboard. The helpful suggestion, "Hey, let's forget those silly old shovels, and give the books to the Russians!" fails to lift the gloom.

Which is why I prefer the professional option. This is a simple business arrangement. If the bloke has problems with the job, his ego is his own affair. Recently, a rather lugubrious gas engineer came to remove the old pump from my central heating, and when he said "Oh dear, oh dear, it won't budge an inch," and "Do you know, when you can get one side to come loose, the other side always sticks," I just said "Really?" and carried on watching daytime TV. Afterwards, when he discovered his car had been towed away from outside my house, I didn't identify with his wounded pride. I just drove him to the car pound and told him the fine was usually about 80 quid.

Left to my own resources, I admit I do sometimes "get a man in" when it is not strictly necessary. I once called a heating engineer when the only problem was that I had turned the thermostat the wrong way; similarly I recently called out a bemused Zanussi man merely to clean the filter on my washing machine. A live-in partner

might have stopped me, perhaps, but on the other hand, I might equally have come home to find bits of washing machine all over the floor, and a scribbled note "Don't use water. Have gone to Zanussi spare parts centre in Cornwall." While the culprit filter sat unnoticed, cocooned in soggy fluff.

On acquiring a boyfriend, then, it is important to know that a chap who says enthusiastically "Why don't we knock the two rooms into one?" is not necessarily an expert with a sledgehammer. He has just always fancied the idea of knocking down a wall. A friend of mine was married to a chap possessed of this spirit of enquiry, who carried a Swiss Army penknife at all times, and would offer to make new holes in watch-straps (sometimes when you didn't want one). At dinner parties he was noted for telling stories of fast-thinking chaps with Swiss Army penknives who had saved lives by performing emergency tracheotomies. Understandably, everybody kept quite quiet after this, and choked very carefully. The slightest choke, and you knew he was likely to leap from his seat and cut your throat. To him, it was the ultimate Do It Yourself.

TOMORROW  
Private Life: John Diamond







# Conductors in search of tickets

London's top orchestras are fighting for supremacy, and Richard Morrison is keeping score

The present London orchestral season has been the most worrying for a decade. Gone are the signs of the brave new adventure promised when Nicholas Snowman first came to the South Bank as artistic director. The recession has forced all orchestras to play for safety. Brahms is back, Britwistle banished.

Even so, there have been dismal box office figures. The BBC Symphony Orchestra's Festival Hall concerts have averaged 18 per cent of capacity so far this season. John Drummond, now departed from the BBC Controller of Music job, could have put the entire audience for most concerts in a village hall.

Meanwhile, the four independent London orchestras go on trying to woo the same punters with the same programmes, played (except for the Barbican-based London Symphony Orchestra) in the same venue: the Festival Hall. But this is all supposed to change in September, when the London Philharmonic begins its five years as the South Bank's resident orchestra.

In theory, the residency will give the LPO and its music director, Franz Welser-Möst, the edge over the Philharmonia (conducted by Giuseppe Sinopoli) and the Royal Philharmonic (under Vladimir Ashkenazy). The LPO's contract guarantees that its rehearsals will be in the Festival Hall, and gives it first choice of dates and repertoire. The idea is that the orchestra will then enjoy such wonderful conditions that it will develop into a world-class ensemble.

So is all set for a golden age at the Festival Hall? The answer is no. All is set for a backstage power struggle that will be bloody even by London orchestral standards. It will be fought on two fronts. First, there is a feeling that the South Bank is trying to soften the implications of the LPO's residency for the other orchestras. In particular the Philharmonic



The South Bank's conductors (left to right): Giuseppe Sinopoli of the Philharmonia, Franz Welser-Möst of the LPO and Vladimir Ashkenazy of the Royal Philharmonic

has been given special treatment for playing "difficult" programmes — or at least, that is how the LPO might see it.

In the coming months the LPO, which once attempted to take over the Philharmonia, will use every mechanism in its contract to force the Philharmonia away from prime dates and repertoire. The RPO is seen as less of a threat. It has had its grant cut this season, and suffered the resignation of its experienced managing director, Ian Maday.

Second, the question of "who runs the show?" will surely soon assume significance. If the ambitious young Welser-Möst were in charge of any other Philharmonic in the world, there would be no question that he would have *carte blanche* to do whatever

he wanted in his own hall. On the South Bank, however, Snowman's position as artistic director implies a confused command, or perhaps one general too many. Then there are the wishes of Ashkenazy and Sinopoli to be considered.

Why, though, should there not be several orchestras competing for London trade, as there have been for 40 years? Is competition not good for consumers? Why is the LPO management, led by John Willan, so intent on squeezing its rivals?

The answer is that the LPO has looked around the world at the orchestras it most wishes to emulate, and found in each case a close bond between orchestra and hall. Vienna and Musikverein; Berlin and Philharmonie; Amsterdam and Concertgebouw; and now Birmingham and Symphony Hall: these are perfect mar-

riages. Only in London is a kind of loose-living *menage à quatre* offered as a substitute for monogamy.

The point was emphasised a fortnight ago, as the LPO completed its round-the-world tour with two well-received concerts in New York. Here was an opportunity to compare the circumstances of the LPO and the orchestra in whose hall it was playing: the New York Philharmonic.

New York's "John Willan" is Deborah Borda, appointed last year to run the New York Phil. She admits that she is competing primarily against other forms of entertainment, not other orchestras. "We were concerned that the group not coming to our concerts was the 30-to-45-year-olds with 'disposable income' — people who used to be called yuppies. In New York there is intense competition for the 'leisure

dollar', and we found that a lot of these people were wary of spending money on symphony concerts; they were not sure how to behave, how to dress, how to respond to the music."

Borda's solution has been to use her greatest asset: a hall permanently available to the orchestra. For instance, she has launched "Rush-hour Concerts" of accessible music on weekdays at 6.45, followed by "meet the orchestra" sessions. "We call them youth concerts for adults; they break down barriers between the Philharmonic and these potential audiences."

In this respect, New York music-making is miles ahead of London, as Willan points out. "The fundamental difference is that the New York Phil is competing for the leisure dollar against cinemas, restau-

rants and theatre. In London we too are competing against all these, but also in the Festival Hall against two identical organisations. The way that Deborah can talk about her initiatives is fantastically refreshing. But she doesn't have to worry about doing this Beethoven symphony or booking that conductor before the opposition has the same idea. We do."

"What's more, it would be inconceivable that we could do something as imaginative as a Rush Hour series in the Festival Hall. The South Bank structure is so cumbersome that, with the best will in the world, it would take years to get such a thing organised. In New York the hall does the orchestra's bidding."

Borda has her problems. Every professional orchestra in America is running a deficit: the result of over-ambitious

expansion in the Eighties. And the desperate state of American musical education puts pressure on eminent bodies such as the New York Phil to "do something" about children's musical appreciation, as well as to attract non-white audiences.

So not everything in New York is to be envied. Similarly, it would be wrong to believe that the only problem in London is the relationship between the LPO and the South Bank. If the LPO is to rival Vienna, its playing must improve and its conductor must mature. Nevertheless, Willan believes that the hall is the key. "If I could take one thing from New York it would be the whole relationship between the orchestra's executive team and the space in which it plays. Until we crack that in London we won't be going forward one millimetre."

## ARTS BRIEF

### Healthy appetite

BARELY pausing to lick his lips after polishing off the Best Actor Oscar for his portrayal of the cannibalistic psychiatrist in *Silence of the Lambs*, Anthony Hopkins will now add a starring role in the film version of Kazuo Ishiguro's novel, *The Remains of the Day*, to his menu for 1992. The film, which will be adapted by Harold Pinter from the acclaimed novel, is to be directed by Chris Menaul (of *London's Burning*).

When the film was first talked about, it was expected that last year's Oscar-winner Jeremy Irons would star and Mike Nichols would direct. Nichols has now decided to produce the film instead. Shooting begins in the summer, after Hopkins has completed work on *The Innocents*, to be directed by John Schlesinger.

### Postponed

BRITAIN's crowded summer festival schedule has been eased slightly, but in unfortunate circumstances. The Sheffield Chamber Music Festival — the second most famous annual event to take place in the Crucible Theatre — has been cancelled this year. Peter Cropper, leader of the Lindsay String Quartet (the festival's mainstay) has suffered a mild heart attack, and since he was involved in 14 of the 29 events, the whole has now been transferred to May 1993. However, the world premiere of Sir Michael Tippett's Fifth Quartet will go ahead this year, on May 9.

Tippett: his new quartet premieres on May 9

### Last chance...

THE Commonwealth Institute, in Kensington, London W8 (071-603 4535) is co-ordinating its programmes this year under the general heading of "New Worlds", marking the "European New World of 1992" and the anniversary of Columbus's first voyage to America. A show called "History and Identity" has seven painters from Britain's African and Asian communities reflecting on their dual heritage. Some are strongly political, while others are cheerful and unashamedly nostalgic. It continues until Sunday.

## DANCE PREVIEW

### Will we tire of the dance?

Once, Russian ballet was like a bird of paradise, isolated and idolised in its Iron Curtain cage, offering tantalising glimpses of beauty and brilliance in rare foreign flutterings. When the Bolshoi Ballet first visited Britain in 1956 it caused a sensation; so did the Kirov when it exploded onto Western stages in 1961, leaving Rudolf Nureyev in its wake. The great dancers who fled to the West — Nureyev, Natalia Makarova, Mikhail Baryshnikov — helped to feed the myth: Russian ballet was the best in the world.

But recent years have told a different story. When glasnost opened the floodgates between East and West, all kinds of Russian ballet — good and bad — came pouring out. The Bolshoi and Kirov (now renamed the Maryinsky) took up regular foreign tours; so, too, did a host of lesser companies, also eager to cash in on the hard-currency bonanza abroad. As a result, Russian ballet has become commonplace, and the once rare treasure has been demystified — and in some cases debased — in the process.

In the past few years, Britain has seen the Bolshoi and the Kirov, along with Moscow Classical Ballet, Moscow City Ballet, Moscow Festival Ballet, the Russian State Ballet and something billed, rather vaguely, as Moscow "La Classique" Ballet. Last autumn, no fewer than four such companies were touring this country, with a string of often tacky productions that met with varying degrees of critical approval.

This year the trend continues. Moscow City Ballet, just five months after its 1991 autumn season ended, is back, presenting *The Sleeping Beauty* on a six-week tour of Britain (see review, on the page opposite); the same company is negotiating to return with a new production of *Nutcracker* for Christmas — its third visit in 12 months.

Then, on Monday, the Bolshoi comes back, or at least a scaled-down version of the company with just 30 dancers, for a 14-week, 25-city tour,

One Russian ballet company is already in Britain, and another arrives next week. Debra Craine questions a growing trade



Natalya Bessmertnova: "I think that there are too many Russian companies, but the Bolshoi shouldn't worry"

similar to one the company undertook here in 1990. And now comes news that the full Bolshoi, with 170 dancers, is to make its first visit to Britain since 1989 with an "arena" season next January at the Albert Hall.

Yet despite the glut, the public's appetite for Russian offerings remains enormous. Trevor Mitchell, Moscow City Ballet's British tour manager, says the 70-strong company has had no trouble finding a sell-out audience at every stop on its tour. "We had the most amazing success in Swansea: we had to add two extra performances," he says.

"Birmingham was sold out: it was the first time they had had a major ballet company there. Inverness sold out the day tickets went on sale. In Carlisle we performed in a large gym which had been converted and still sold out. In Cambridge we

had to put the orchestra in the bar and pipe them through and yet we were sold out. At Wimbledon we were busting at the seams with people.

"We are packing out everywhere we go. We are going to venues that English National Ballet and Birmingham Royal Ballet don't normally go to so obviously we are going to attract local audiences and local sponsorship."

The "Stars of the Bolshoi Ballet" tour, which opens on Monday with a royal charity gala at London's Dominion, will also take ballet to venues too small to accommodate the larger companies, although instead of full-length works the troupe will perform the second acts of *Swan Lake* and *Giselle* along with a selection of popular diversissements.

"The aim of this tour is to perform in many cities where we can't show our big produc-

tions for technical reasons," says Natalia Bessmertnova, the veteran ballerina — and wife of Bolshoi artistic director Yuri Grigorovich — who is heading the lineup of Bolshoi "stars". While they are in Israel and South Korea.

The 50-plus Bessmertnova, who is expected to dance every night for the entire 14 weeks of the British tour, is aware of the danger inherent in over-exposure, but shrugs off any suggestion of rivalry from the smaller companies. "I think there are too many Russian companies but I also think our company from the Bolshoi Theatre shouldn't be worried about the competition. Already two of the companies which toured here last year have died naturally, they no longer exist."

"When there is too much of something it is not so interesting anymore and surely it's better when artists do come rarely. But soon the very small companies will stop touring, while touring by the big companies will be rare."

Still, the fact remains that Russian companies now need lucrative foreign touring more than ever before: for some of them, like Moscow City Ballet, their survival depends upon it. But there must be a limit to how many versions of *Swan Lake* and *Sleeping Beauty* the British public will buy.

Perhaps that is why Yuri Grigorovich has devised a novel offering for his five-week Albert Hall season: he is choreographing 13 classical ballets for the 5,000-seat venue (including his own *Spartacus*) to create shortened versions that will give his company the dubious advantage of being able to present three full-length ballets in one evening by compressing each into less than an hour.

● The Stars of the Bolshoi Ballet open at the Dominion Theatre, (071-580 9562) London W1 on Monday. Moscow City Ballet is at the Opera House, Manchester (061-236 9922) this week and at Sadler's Wells (071-278 8916), London EC1 from Monday.

## TELEVISION REVIEW

### Imagination is a growth area for children

Children's television today is a largely raucous area of activity which, overheard by adults, resembles a ten-year-old's birthday party held in a jolly factory and attended by several pop groups. Thank the good fairy, then, for the arrival of *The Lowdown*, a documentary series for and about children which began on BBC 1 yesterday afternoon.

This has a markedly refreshing approach. First it sounds as if it has at least heard of the Noise Abatement Society. And although it uses animated images as a backdrop for the children's stories, there is mercifully no sign of the multiple messages so beloved of the BBC's "yoof" department, notably via the use of captions which often come street-portering across the screen.

Part one of *The Lowdown* was called "You've Got A Friend" and dealt with that fascinating prop of many a childhood, the imaginary pal. Happily there were no psychologists to say what it all meant. There were instead children telling us who their friends were and what they did and why they mattered. And there was Alan Ayckbourn to catch a passing adult eye, who talked about professional inspiration from his friend Tim who used to sit beside him at the dinner table.

Imaginary friends appear to be mainly a feminine trait. Most of the children interviewed were girls, unless of course girls are more willing to talk about such matters, boys being notoriously insensitive to all but the gang viewpoint. Some friends demand more than others, and have more demanded of them, a realisation which is good training for adult life. Emma, for instance, is the friend of one little girl and she lives in the bathroom mirror. Emma is only there to be talked to.

Another child has an animal as a friend, but this animal can be all things to all enemies. Sometimes a cat, the

friend will turn into a lion if his inventor is being bullied at school. Not that bullies recognise invisible lions, but at least the owner, as in adult life, has a chance to act out what would have happened to the bully, if only.

Many strands from the tales we teach children are picked up in this fantasy world. There are hints of Peter Pan and Alice in Wonderland and even *The Diary of Anne Frank*, the inspiration for one child's own diary, written to an imaginary friend she calls April "because it's a friendly month".

Some of the structures in these invented worlds are complex. One girl of about 11 has turned an ambition to be a teacher into a three-dimensional structure which consists of a school made of cardboard and cut-out uniforms carefully shaded in colour.

She describes this school in precise terms, as if from a manifesto. It is a boarding school for girls with 200 pupils and 30 teachers, which implies a ratio not even the Liberal Democrats dare promise.

And, as with the other fantasies, it should not be patronised. Much of what these children create is clearly drawn from real experience and, as in the case of the school, acts as a critique of an existing situation. Idealised, certainly, but God forbid we should ever produce children with no sense of the ideal.

Loneliness seems to be much of the inspiration for these touching relationships, sometimes the need of a young child for an older sister: Stacey aged 7 has a friend called Jill, aged 16. And what do Stacey and Jill talk about? Why, "going to the pub", of course.

Ah, childhood: innocence reaching for the perceived trappings of maturity. Not that Stacey will find any shortage of people talking to imaginary friends when she graduates to the saloon bar.

PETER BARNARD



Girl from *The Lowdown*

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The family way: Annette Bening portrays the notorious glamour-seeking gangster's moll Virginia Hill, with Warren Beatty as Bugsy Siegel in his new film *Bugsy*.

## Married to the mob

The fleeting glamour in the lives of Mafia women is outweighed by the brutality, Charles Bremner reports

Film stars, an army of reporters and an entourage of glossy gangsters all trooped daily into the Brooklyn court to watch the final act of John Gotti's reign as Godfather of the New York Mafia. However one figure never entered the room: Victoria, his wife of 31 years. According to custom, a Mafia woman's place is the home.

In these times of decadence in the old-time Mob, when ranking "wiseguys" are breaking the ancient codes of honour, dealing drugs, "rating" on their bosses to the FBI and even shooting women, Mrs Gotti and her two daughters stand proudly in their traditional roles as invisible helpmates for their men. While her husband sat for three months in court, depicted in his own recorded words and by his own underboss as a murdering, foul-mouthed dictator of the underworld, Mrs Gotti sat silently in the couple's suburban home with the blinds drawn. She spoke only this weekend when the Don's conviction guaranteed he would never leave prison again. "At least I know that I've had happy years with the man I love," she told a trusted reporter for the *New York Daily News*. "How many women do you know who can really say so?"

One of the couple's two daughters, Vicki Agnelli, 30, echoed her mother in the moments after Gotti's conviction last Thursday for murder and racketeering. "My father is the last of the Mohicans. They don't make men like him any more and they never will. That's the difference between him and everybody else."

Victoria DiGiorgio, dark and petite and now aged 50, unofficially married into the Mob in 1959, when she met John, a worker in New York's garment district who aspired to glory in the *casa nostra* (Mafia). Her father, an employee in the city sanitation department, was none too pleased at her choice. As Gotti rose through the ranks of the Gambino clan, from street enforcer to feared overlord of the New York underworld, Victoria was the perfect wife, enduring the rigours of

her husband's profession, including brief absences in prison, and above all never asking questions. "I was never permitted to be involved," she told the *New York Daily News*. Her husband may be known to the world as a homicidal chief executive of the *casa nostra*, a man who could be heard in FBI tapes expressing his organisational credo: "Every time we got a partner that don't agree with us, we kill him." But that is not Mrs Gotti's concern. "I'm an old-fashioned woman," she said. "I don't ask him what he does. All I know is, he provides."

Thanks to a spate of memoirs and their Hollywood adaptation, much is now known of the lives of Mafia women, a group which remains among the least liberated in American life. They split into two types. On one side are the wives and sisters whom the soldiers swear to honour in those faded initiation ceremonies which date back to the rituals of 12th-century Sicily. "Women are sacred," a don could be heard telling four new soldiers in a Connecticut blood ceremony recorded by the FBI and played in court last year. "The only way to get out of that is you die." The other type is the moll, the ornament on the mobster's arm, who has been glorified by Hollywood from pre-war days through to Annette Bening's current screen version of Virginia Hill, the Las Vegas mistress of Bugsy Siegel, portrayed in Warren Beatty's new film *Bugsy*.

Despite Hollywood's fantasies about lethal females such as the hit woman played by Kathleen Turner in *Prizzi's Honour*, a floozy is never accepted as one of the wiseguys. Attracted by the glamour of power, her highest aspiration is merely to sleep with Mr Big and enjoy, for a time, his gifts and protection. As Judith Campbell Exner, mistress of the 1950s gangster Sam Giancana and of President Kennedy, put it, mobsters were usually fat older

men, but the aura of danger and power is a potent aphrodisiac. Giancana, said Exner, was a better lover than the glamorous young president.

For its fleeting pleasures, life as a Mob moll has always been brutal and sordid. Nothing could better deter star-struck young hopefuls than the story of Arlyne Brickman, who was the concubine of hoodlums for four decades. In *Mob Girl: A Woman's Life in the Underworld*, published this month by Simon & Schuster, Ms Brickman tells how, as the daughter

**'I don't ask him what he does. All I know is he provides'**

of a Jewish gangster in the days of Siegel and Meyer Lansky, she fell in love with the image of Virginia Hill after reading a newspaper description of her as "the most successful woman in America".

"In my eyes," says Ms Brickman, "there was a broad that really made it good." After losing her virginity at 14 to an enforcer from the Bonanno clan, Ms Brickman became a "party girl". She carried out sexual favours for the infamous Joe Colombo and hundreds of others. Regularly beaten, raped and scorned, she managed to start a minor gambling business of her own and then exacted her revenge by acting as a police informer for a decade. She recorded conversations with leading figures of the underworld, among them John Gotti. After her heroin-addicted daughter died of AIDS, she retreated with her

dog to the anonymity of the federal witness programme. The dog, she reported, never returned her affection: "It was like loving a wiseguy."

Life on the other side of the fence, as a pampered Mafia wife, may be more secure and comfortable but the shortcomings are severe. In *Mafia Marriage*, published in 1990, Rosalie Bonanno, the wife of Salvatore "Bill" Bonanno who was the consigliere (counselor) of the notorious family, says: "It means I can never ask questions such as 'Where are you going?' or 'How did you get the money?'" Mrs Bonanno, the daughter of a senior gangster, lists the drawbacks of life as a Mafia princess: the main one being the need for unquestioning obedience to your man. There is no cheque-book, no bank account, no holiday. Her one attempt at divorce was met by the statement that "we do not divorce".

Being married to a Mr Big meant having the FBI watching you every move, questioning your children. "There were nights when my husband didn't come home and then one evening he would break into his own house, unobserved by the FBI, blindfolded me and take me off to a motel or an empty house or the backseat of a car to make love. The blindfold was for my own good." Yet, says Mrs Bonanno in *Mafia Marriage*, for a woman born into the tradition, there is no other life.

Until recently, you could at least be sure of your safety as a Mafia woman, but that old rule was broken last month when hit men "whacked" Patricia Capozzallo, the sister of a *capo* (Mafia captain) in the Colombo family who had broken the *omertà* (vow of silence) and betrayed his associates, including Gotti, to the prosecutors. Mrs Capozzallo survived with five bullets in her back.

Then two weeks ago, the FBI arrested three other mafiosi and

charged them with, among other things, plotting the murder of the wife of Sammy Gravano, the lieutenant who betrayed Gotti and spent nine days chronicling his life as a state witness in his trial. Mrs Gravano was under the Gambino's protection, according to police, because she had done the "decent" thing and denounced her husband for his treason.

By all accounts, including the evidence of the surveillance teams and tapes, Gotti always lived up to his role of devoted husband and patriarchal model. "He did not fool around with other women," an FBI officer said. He proved his devotion in 1980 when a neighbour accidentally ran down and killed their 12-year-old son Frank as he was riding his bicycle in the street. According to police, Mrs Gotti went into a prolonged state of mourning, setting up a shrine to the boy and could not forgive the neighbour John Favara. Favara was last seen later that year being thrown into a van by large men. His body was never found.

Mrs Gotti now has reason to fear for her family, say the gangland experts, and perhaps for herself because they expect a ruthless struggle for power in the Gambinos. One of the candidates for control is said to be John junior, the couple's 28-year-old son. Mrs Gotti is not afraid about the safety of her men, she told the *New York Daily News*, but she spoke with unusual bitterness. "Johnny doesn't understand that if he is sent to life in prison, it's a life sentence for me as well as for my children. He always tells me, 'This is my fight. I want you and the children out of it.'"

"But it's not really his fight. We're talking about my life. Although he is not with us, his moods are affecting us. He calls me every evening around 9.30. If his mood is good, my mood is better. If he is in a bad mood, it ruins my day."

Just thinking about the possibility that Johnny is never coming back makes me want to die."

### MANWATCHING

## Sporting table talk

A male table tennis player is a reassuring, but occasionally mysterious, creature

A Friday night finds me in the Woodford Leisure Centre in Hull, watching four men bat a small ball back and forth across a table. The table is a few feet away across the main sports hall. The Woodford Leisure Centre is remarkable because the man who gave it its name ten years ago, Councillor Harry Woodford, is not, as is the tradition, dead, but very much alive. Indeed, he is still as alert as the day when, a decade ago, the Leisure Services Committee of Hull City Council voted to name the city's new leisure centre after their esteemed chairman, Councillor Harry Woodford. Harry is not present, but I know he is proud, because tonight his centre is staging an international fixture. England are playing Austria at ping pong.

I have arrived late, entering Harry's fun palace at the interval in time for the pong, but I am assured that the ping has thrilled the few hundred people present. A men's doubles match begins, featuring Carl Preen, England's top-ranked table tennis player.

Being a keen devotee of the ways of the table, I watch Carl carefully. I detect that, aside from the facts he: a) hits the ball very hard; b) spins the ball so much that its flight is as unpredictable as a paper aeroplane; and c) almost always gets the ball back over the net and on to his opponent's half of the table. Carl's technique is not so different from the one I have developed over long hours of practice across a trestle at home.

Indeed, for men who like sport but despair of sportsmen with their extravagant muscles and precocious skills, their wildly expensive equipment and their clique, exclusive habits, they are reassuring men to watch, these ping-pongers. For one thing, ping-pongers are normal-sized. To be sure, Ding Yi, the leading Austrian player, has an unusually well-muscled bottom, but then he is 33, it is not as if he was born with it that way. Hard work in a grown man I can accept. Large reference books surgically implanted in the thighs of a 16-year-old, as happens with some footballers and athletes, I cannot.

Ding's team-mates and English opponents all look suitably unaltered. They have not, as far as I can see, had coat hangers put into their shirts or cavity wall foam injected into their underwear. This is encouraging.

Carl, if anything, has an unathletic physique. He is tall, ungainly, with immense flat feet and normal, erratically-haired legs. I warm to the man. He plays with a plain bat, logo and graphite-free. He even joins in the search for the ball when a wayward, forehead-bashing, it among the crowd. Carl wears a loose-fitting top with a cardboard collar, like a darts shirt, and sky-blue silky shorts like nappies. His face is red with exertion. Clearly, he is one of us.

And he behaves like we do, too. When Carl hits a bad shot, he examines his bat and sulkily scrutinises the bobby red stuff at the tip of the bat, fingering the join of handle and paddle. When he puts away a flamboyant smash, he blows his fringe and stalks around a bit. Taking the lead in a tight game, he draws his clenched fist and top lip towards his nose, forearm tense, bicep straining through the nylon, firing himself up. Carl plays good

back-to-the-wall crowd-pleasing table tennis. He stands away from the table and does those astonishing returns from 20ft back and the ball an inch from the floor, the kind I imagine I could do if the furniture permitted.

The crowd gasps. And Carl knows the form: he holds his bat up in apology if he flukes a winner from a net cord or the side of the table. At home, I reckon to do this too: if a shot hits an encrusted lump of, say, wallpaper paste and accelerates unplayably into a pot plant, then the etiquette is just the same. "Sorry about the wallpaper paste shot, Dave!" "No problem Bob, they even out do those paste shots".

So I watch Carl as he prepares to serve, looking for his secret. His partner, Geoff Cooke, crouches behind him. Carl bends low. He bounces the ball. McEnroe-style. One bounce, two bounces. Then he cradles the ball into his stomach in his left hand, a good foot below the table, sticks two fingers in the air very quickly, then flips the ball up, and serves it.

Sticks two fingers up? No, surely not. I look again. Crouch, bend, ready, pause, two fingers, throw, serve. Why is he doing that? I wonder. Is he being rude to the Austrians? Not very sporting — and, frankly, a little immature, with

all these people watching in a big-time match. And some of them children.

I look across at the umpire, a serious man in a blue Amateur Table Tennis Association blazer. He ditches his microphone. Has he seen? No — his amplified breathing remains perfectly steady as it booms around Harry Woodford's

premature monument. Should I tell him? No, better not. Don't want to cause a scene. And, anyway, maybe Carl is pushing the McEnroe comparison and gesturing to the umpire. I watch and wait, wondering why our national table tennis champion is behaving in such an ungentelemanly way.

Carl must be signalling to Geoff, telling him where his serve will go. But no, it is always two fingers, so how would that help Geoff? And, why bother anyway — anyone who has seen a table tennis table knows that the service must land in an area about the size of the average office desk. Even if you are good enough, as Carl obviously is, to put the ball where you want it to go, and to tell your partner in advance, what is the point? You can hardly serve an ace at table tennis — the dimensions of the table preclude it. There are just not enough options. The opponent knows this. So does Geoff. Why tell him? I ponder.

And then I realise that Carl is signalling — not to Geoff — but to us, his audience. Carl's little two-finger salute is saying, "You think I'm just like you, with my red face and my naff shirt, but not I'm the best male ping-ponger in the UK, ranked 12th in Europe. Watch this — and discuss among yourselves what on earth it means."

And then I know that Carl is not so ordinary, that he knows that this little arcane gesture sets him above the keen amateurs in the crowd who have been thinking, as I have, "I could do that"; that this obscure, under-the-table pantomime is simply Carl making his mark, making his point, when he has the chance, as all men must do. Councillor Harry Woodford would understand perfectly.

ROBERT CRAMPTON

Albanian women have never had contraception: will new abortion laws improve their health?

## Women go last

Shpresa, a 35-year-old Albanian woman, has had two children, six illegal abortions and is waiting to undergo her first legal abortion in Tirana's maternity clinic.

Contraceptive methods are unknown in Albania, though the first condoms recently appeared on the booming black market and relief agencies say contraceptives are a priority. During the four decades that Albania withered under Europe's harshest communist rule, abortions were forbidden because the country's leadership wanted to ensure that there would be enough bodies to defend the country. But one of the first laws in to be passed by the country's coalition government last summer was one that gave women the right to choose. The law was intended to stop the stream of dangerous, and sometimes fatal, unqualified abortions endured by Albanian women.

But the priority given to the new law was also an acknowledgement that in this country where suffering has been long and universal, women have had perhaps the roughest time of all.

Almost no statistics are available but doctors and foreign relief workers in the country say Albanians' general health is the worst in Europe, though life expectancy tops 70 years for men and women, according to the United Nations development programme. Determining the effects of the country's increasingly desperate economic situation is almost impossible because no one is conducting studies, says Fiqiri Kasolija, a doctor and the director of health care at the Albanian health ministry.

But two indices on women show the trend. The fertility rate in Albania is 3.0 compared with 1.9 and 1.6 in neighbouring Greece and Yugoslavia respectively. In the past five years, the number of premature births has risen from 7 to 11 per cent, says Dr Kenneth Wind-Anderson, the director of the World Health Organisation's programme in Albania.

In fact, all one has to do is look at an Albanian woman to

realise that she is not in good health. Almost without exception women appear older than they are, and their often yellowish skins show signs of vitamin deficiency and poor nutrition. Meat, fruits and vegetables have in the past decade been increasingly difficult to come by. The typical daily diet in Albania consists of flour, sugar, rice, oil and butter, items that have always been the backbone of Albanian meals but are no longer being processed or produced and are instead supplied under Italy's food aid programme.

In addition, say doctors and aid workers, women are expected to carry the greater burden of work in the home even when they are pregnant.

"Every Hoxha spoke of emancipation of women but it was only so women could contribute more to the totalitarian patriarchal production," says Natasha Lako, a writer and Democratic party parliamentarian, one of the few women in Albanian politics.

As in the former Soviet Union and Eastern bloc countries, nearly all women work outside the home and are responsible for running the house. Conveniences such as washing machines and refrigerators are seen in only a few homes and are non-existent in the rural mountain areas, where 70 per cent of the population live.

Despite their poor health, the only time most of these women see a hospital is when giving birth. The country's network of clinics and hospitals handles 99 per cent of births, Dr Wind-Anderson says. Relief workers praise the reach of the health care system, but say conditions in clinics and hospitals are appalling. Most foreign relief aid is channelled to these institutions.

At the Tirana maternity hospital, which houses the newly opened abortion clinic and the obstetrics and gynaecology wards, hygiene appears to be lacking almost completely.

Floors are muddy and strewn with rubbish and bundles of sheets. A stray cat stinking through the hall is not an uncommon sight. There is no fuel for heating, though the temperature last winter often dipped below freezing.

"Basically we lack everything," says Liljana Borochi, a surgeon, ticking off a list of desperately needed items: blankets, sheets, infant formulae and simple reagents such as methanol and ethanol for essential tests. Though prenatal care is available throughout the country, Dr Borochi says most personnel are unqualified. Fetal monitoring is done with the stethoscope alone.

Of the 8,000 deliveries in this hospital each year, 1,200 are caesarian sections, Dr Borochi says, though recently only one operating theatre — which had run out of oxygen — was working because the ceiling had collapsed in the other one. Abortions and other surgery are performed with instruments that are sterilised only with boiled water or in an autoclave whose efficacy is doubtful, Dr Borochi says.

Tests for the HIV virus are not done in the maternity hospital because it lacks the



Out in front for the first time in four decades: supporters at a Democratic party rally

equipment and although no cases of AIDS have been reported in Albania, several doctors are fearful of an epidemic. Only one clinic in the country tests blood for the HIV virus and if, as some believe, many of the Albanian women who have gone to Italy are working as prostitutes, the virus could spread on their return.

Abortions, which cost women the equivalent of two days' wages, are done without vacuum pumps, though Dr Borochi says infections have been rare. A family planning division has been set up by the health ministry.

"What sort of ways are there to stop from having more babies?" asked Shpresa, who

says she cannot afford to have more children.

When Dr Borochi suggests that women should try to have intercourse only during infertile times of the month, the women burst into laughter. "Doctor, you don't know our husbands," Shpresa says.

BRENDA FOWLER

## No

The election has counted thousands of votes, but another decision, 1,300 Conservative votes, has been made. The last Conservative party election is expected to be a campaign of the use of telephone

Much of and organisations in Conservative the help of a part of this vital, but we have the vote one in the vote

Seventy-five servative club full or associated allowing women, although on the common vote. How much cent offer full ship is anyone Association Clubs (ACC) figures for p ever, out of chosen at r offered wom ship.

Margaret the secretary described the per cent as their minds they do not form of men Many mi

## Book bus

DRAGONS the London shop, shares the recession 1980s. No other business is poised for sion, says managing exclusive co customers a selling frans of hand-pai furniture. A ton Street in Oslo, No family, who company.



WEDNESDAY APRIL 7 1992  
WATCHING  
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# How the saint became a sinner

Arthur Goldstick on why Winnie Mandela could not live up to the title of 'mama Africa'

Winnie Mandela was a little young to be mother of a nation: just 24 when she married Nelson Mandela in June 1958. He was the African National Congress leader on trial for treason, she a newly-qualified medical social worker at Soweto's Baragwanath Hospital. After several more trials, Nelson Mandela was sentenced to life in jail on June 11, 1964. Winnie Mandela's trial had begun.

Already she was not allowed to leave the Johannesburg district, she had to give up her job, she was not allowed to be on school premises once her children went to school. In the course of the next 20 years she would be repeatedly arrested, charged, convicted and jailed. Even her biographers lost count of the litany of harassment.

In 1977 she was banished to the dusty "location" — a small black township — of an isolated rural town called Brandfort. This alien environment gave her new resolve, she used the interest of the outside world — embassies, churches, anti-apartheid groups — to bring to Brandfort location a crèche, soup kitchens, vegetable gardens, her own child welfare expertise...

In adversity and under duress, Mrs Mandela became a symbol for a nation. Before she was 50, she was being called "mama Africa" — mother of the African people. In exile, Mrs Mandela carried the title with dignity and courage.

In August 1985, her Brandfort home was fire-bombed. She moved back into the cramped Soweto home in which she and her husband lived before he was jailed, but was forcibly removed by the security police. She returned again and again, only to be arrested again and again. She finally won the war of nerves in February 1986, when all charges of breaking her banning orders were dropped.

But she had not emerged unscathed from her years in exile. Precisely because of her defiance, it seemed, she had developed a fiery style that rubbed the salt of bitterness into the wounds of her anger.

In April 1986, she delivered a speech in which she is alleged to have said that the nation would be liberated by matches and necklaces — the gruesome method of killing by which a petrol-soaked tyre is placed around a victim's neck and set alight. She later denied the allegation — she had been quoted out of context, she said.

But history has proven that, if the statement was out of context, it was very much in character. Over the next five years, Mrs Mandela became the bully-boy of the left. She surrounded herself with a gang of toughs known as the Mandela United Football Club. They functioned as her body



House arrest: Helen Joseph

In adversity and under duress Mrs Mandela became a symbol for a nation, mother of the African people

guards, and occasionally played soccer against any team that would risk the consequences of winning. Their coach, Jerry Richardson, was not in the business of soccer; after the disappearance of club member and teenage activist Stompie Moeketsi Sepel, and the discovery of his body on February 9, 1989, Richardson was tried and found guilty of murder. The evidence delivered during this trial led to the conviction, two years later, of Mrs Mandela.

The sublime, demure woman of the Brandfort days had given way to a shrill, domineering and dangerous presence. The suburban dining rooms, where the liberal socialists hostesses delighted in upstaging each other with their display of politically "infamous" guests, became a no-go area for Mrs Mandela. She was just too dangerous for even the most opportunist of the white elite.

She no longer slotted in so easily among all those other "mama Africas": Helen Joseph, a co-treason trialist with Nelson Mandela in the 1950s and the first white woman to be placed under house arrest; Albertina Sisulu, the wife of



Dangerous presence: over the past few years Mrs Mandela became the bully-boy of the left

Walter Sisulu, the deputy president of the ANC, and herself charged with high treason in 1955; Ruth Mompati, exiled for 28 years and today a member of the ANC national executive committee; Sister Bernard Ncube, teacher, nun, leader of the now-defunct United Democratic Front, with numerous

arrests and detentions to her "credit"; Gertrude Shope, women's activist exiled for 24 years, now the president of the ANC Women's League; Mamphela Ramphele, who had a son with Steve Biko, the black consciousness leader (born after Biko's death in a police cell, and who is today the vice-chancellor of the University of Cape Town.

Some of these fell into politics by dint of their husband's profiles, and then took up the challenge in their own personal styles; others were always activists, proving that women were as effective as men — often more so — in the struggle against injustice in South Africa.



High treason: Albertina Sisulu

After her conviction a graffiti wall was daubed with the slogan, 'Mugger of the Nation'

They never saw themselves as feminists — and thus never marginalised themselves on the pages of South Africa's political history. Their struggle was as women, but for justice. Nevertheless, the "mama Africas" became role models for women.

But it has been a long time since anyone referred to Winnie Mandela as the mother of the nation. Quite the contrary: after her conviction a popular graffiti wall near Johannesburg's liberal University of the Witwatersrand was daubed with the slogan, "Mugger of the Nation".

The appeal against her conviction is still to be heard, and there has been widespread speculation among those who praised the verdict that justice may lose out in the end: that Mrs Mandela will remain innocent, proven too powerful to be guilty.

In that light, the "domestic squabble" that saw her throw out her co-convicted domestic worker, Xoliswa Falati, proved a godsend to the Winnie-bashers. The *Sunday Times* reported this week that Falati had made numerous allegations against Mrs Mandela: allegations

that, if proved true, will make the kidnappings seem like a picnic.

Falati claims that confronted by a drunken Winnie Mandela brandishing a Makarov pistol, she ran to Nelson Mandela to intervene. He reinstated her in her backyard shack, but also asked her to tell the ANC everything she knew. What she "knew" included a hit-list drawn up by Mrs Mandela and her involvement in various murders. According to *The Sunday Times*, this proved the last straw for the Mandela marriage.

However, speculation in South Africa is that, while Nelson Mandela will keep his distance from his wife — physically and politically — a divorce is out of the question. The symbolic significance of their marriage is not the least of the reasons. It was always held up as a classical romance of the apartheid era. So much so that Hugh Masekela wrote as the chorus to one of his songs the line "I want to see him [Nelson Mandela] walking down the streets of South Africa. I want to see him walking hand in hand with Winnie Mandela". If the Mandela marriage were to end in tatters, a small piece of the dream of democracy would die with it.

To vilify Winnie Mandela is easy — she provides the ammunition herself. It is equally easy to forget that she did once represent so much of what was beautiful and sublime in the struggle against apartheid. The strong, loyal wife, moving heaven and earth to visit her husband in a distant jail, the communal worker ignoring her own plight to bring comfort to the grey matchbox houses of a repressed community; the doting mother, sacrificing all for the education and safety of her children; and mother of the nation, weeping bitter tears for victim after victim of an insane ideology.

"These women were heroines worthy of Tolstoy", wrote James Lelyveld of Winnie Mandela and Ramphela Ramphele in his Pulitzer Prize winning work on South Africa, *Move Your Shadow*.

Winnie Mandela was not any better than any of the other women activists who kept the fires of defiance burning while the male leaders languished in jail.

The difference is, the others survived their years in exile. Winnie Mandela — or at least the Winnie Mandela the world came to know in her three decades as mother of the nation — did not. That Winnie Mandela died somewhere in the late 1980s, arguably from the emotional wounds sustained during exile. While her critics delight in her latest fall, it is a time of mourning for those who loved her.

## No place for a lady member

The election campaign has not only sent the country's legions of politicians out on to the campaign trail, but has also mobilised another dedicated army — the 1,300 Conservative clubs throughout the UK.

At the last general election Conservative clubs supported their party to the tune of £250,000; a similar contribution is expected now. During a campaign the clubs offer accommodation, free meals and use of telephones.

Much of the fund-raising and organisation that goes on in Conservative clubs is due to the help of women. The support of this hidden army is vital, but although women have the vote, not all will have one in their club.

Seventy-five per cent of Conservative clubs are said to offer full or associate membership allowing women use of facilities, although they cannot be on the committee and cannot vote. How many of that 75 per cent offer full voting membership is anyone's guess, as the Association of Conservative Clubs (ACC) does not issue figures for publication. However, out of 50 UK clubs chosen at random, only half offered women full membership.

Margaret Dupont MBE, the secretary of the ACC, described the remaining 25 per cent as "still making up their minds". In the meantime they do not offer women any form of membership at all. Many male members are

Conservative clubs rely on the tireless work of women, but many still refuse them a vote

far from happy with this inequality. One club steward from the East Midlands, who did not wish to be named, said: "We gave our ladies associate membership ten years ago, it saved the club. They still don't have a vote, it's ridiculous. A man can bring a dog into the snooker room, but not a woman."

Many Conservative clubs were formed as all-male establishments before women attained the vote and, as each is run on a private basis, they can

apply membership rules as they see fit. And positive discrimination is not favoured by Conservatives. Miss Dupont says: "The association would be 'delighted' if every club admitted ladies, but it's stupid to force them. You get a better response the way we are doing it, gently, gently."

Last year, uproar ensued when Labour disclosed that its National Executive Committee had approved a plan to ban all-male clubs, should it gain power. And the ACC's gently,



Room at the top: Mrs Thatcher would be admitted

gently approach is not shared by the 150 Labour clubs affiliated to the party. They must sign a declaration that includes an undertaking not to discriminate on the grounds of race, colour or sex. The remaining 290 unaffiliated clubs can do as they please. There are no figures as to the type of membership offered.

Bernard Dooley, the general secretary of the National Union of Labour and Socialist Clubs, shares Miss Dupont's view. "I would like to see women as full voting members in all our clubs. Unfortunately, unaffiliated clubs can do what they want."

Could Margaret Thatcher technically be ineligible for full voting membership of a Conservative club? "Absolutely not," Miss Dupont says. "The situation would not be allowed to occur. She always respected their rules and never, never took umbrage if they told her it was an all-male club."

What does Mrs Thatcher think? In December John Whittingdale, then her political secretary, said on her behalf that "she would like to see Conservative clubs open to both sexes and regrets that some still do not admit women". Should she wish to join her home town Conservative Club of Grantham, no doubt they would make her an honorary member. The club does not offer women full voting membership either.

INGRID HUNT

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## Booming business

DRAGONS of Walton Street, the London nursery furniture shop, started trading during the recession of the early 1980s. Now, when so many other businesses are folding, it is poised for worldwide expansion, says Giles Fisher, its managing director. The once-exclusive company, which has customers around the world, is selling franchises for its range of hand-painted, personalised furniture. A Dragons of Walton Street has already opened in Oslo, Norway. The Fisher family, which founded the company, hopes to see one

### AND BRIEFLY

everywhere from Hull to Henden (not to mention New York, Paris, Rome and Tokyo) by the end of the year. They hope to entice people to a business expected to thrive, partly because of the baby boom among older parents with higher disposable incomes. Full franchises are cheap at £10,000. Details from Giles Fisher at Dragons, PO Box 405, Henfield, West Sussex BN5 9BG (0273-494908).

**Label laws**  
MICROWAVE oven owners will become more label-conscious when the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and

Food's voluntary labelling system comes into effect on ovens and food packs this year. The labels are designed to ensure the efficient cooking of prepared ready-made meals. Free leaflets explaining the labels are available from MAFF's Food Sense division (London SE99 7TP, telephone 081-694 8862) and a free helpline is at the Food Safety Advisory Centre on 0800-282 407.

**DIY shiatsu**  
THE latest DIY book of complementary medicine is an *Introductory Guide to Shiatsu* by Chris Jarney, published tomorrow by Thorsons

at £4.99. Devotees of *Forever Green*, ITV's drama series, will have been introduced to the therapeutic Oriental art of shiatsu. The book gives a hands-on guide to massaging for many ailments, suggesting that it could prevent common colds and cure constipation. But it cautions amateurs that "it takes a minimum of three years to become a proficient practitioner with developed diagnostic skills". Also included are details of where to receive tuition, as well as treatments from practitioners registered by the European Shiatsu School, the British School of Shiatsu and Oriental Medicine, and a dozen reputable schools in the UK.

VICTORIA MCKEE

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Nick Nuttall reports on growing national concern over the impact that quarrying for road building and construction has on the landscape

## Pitted against quarries

Environmentalists and heritage campaigners hope that a public enquiry which opened in the West Country yesterday will become a virtual referendum on minerals and aggregates extraction in an area of great natural beauty.

The enquiry has started as national concern grows about the impact on the landscape of quarrying limestone, basalt and gravel, sand and granite for road building and construction.

Residents have formed protest groups to fight planning applications, especially in the big Thames Valley, East Anglia, east Midlands and southwest mineral extraction areas.

Fuelling the concern are recent government commissioned figures that forecast a rise in demand for aggregates of 66 per cent by the year 2011: from 300 million to 500 million tonnes a year.

The estimates have become a source of heated debate between the industry and environmental groups such as the Council for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE). The CPRE claims that unless action is taken soon, areas of outstanding beauty and scientific importance will come under the digger, harming villagers' lives and damaging wildlife habitats and archaeological sites.

The group underlines its fears with a report commissioned from John Adams, at University College, London, estimating that if the new forecasts are met "from the beginning of the century to 2011, the amount of aggregate extracted amounts to an 8 billion cubic metre hole in the ground".

The campaigning has not gone unnoticed by the industry. Jerry McLaughlin, economist for BACMI, the London-based trade federation, says: "During the past 18 months there has been a more co-ordinated approach by groups such as the CPRE. They are anti-

quarrying but they also object to the construction that requires the aggregates in the first place."

The enquiry that began in the Somerset town of Frome yesterday, about quarrying in the Mendip Hills, sets groups including the CPRE, the Somerset Trust for Nature Conservation and the Mendip Society against ARC, one of the country's aggregate-extraction companies. The battle centres on ARC's request for planning permission to extend Whitley quarry, near Mells, Somerset, in the east Mendip hills.

Campaigners claim that the extra 125 acres being sought by the company threaten landscape and water supplies to farms and Frome which come from sources including the Oldford borehole.

ARC, which has headquarters in Chipping Sodbury, Avon, argues that its existing limestone reserves will be exhausted in five years at present production rates of four to six million tonnes a year and that 350 local jobs would be directly at risk. The company has made pledges, including tree planting and screenings to hide the quarry extension, as well as protecting water supplies. However, Mary Viggiani, the CPRE's local campaigner, says: "We want an overall view of quarrying in the east Mendips. Since the 1960s some quarries have grown to an enormous size. There are now three large quarries, including ARC's, within half a mile of each other. If they continue we will soon have no Mendip hills, just a nasty continuous canyon."

At the villages of Croft and Huncoate in the Soar flood plain of Leicestershire, similar concerns are being aired. There, English China Clays, another of Britain's big extraction companies, wants to

### 'Estimates cause arguments'

extend quarrying operations to Croft Hill, a 200ft granite mound, which holds about 30 million tonnes of gravel and may have been the Mesomphalos or sacred hill of the druids. Jo Clarke, a member of the Croft Hill Action Group, says: "The hole they want to make will be deep enough to fit the Eiffel Tower. There is enough reserve in the existing site for the next 25 years." The company has promised to build a hill near Croft Hill. Mrs Clarke, however, described a similar man-made hill near Huncoate as "just a mound of earth on which only thistles grow... Croft Hill is only historic and an absolutely beautiful landscape feature but it has loads of wild flowers". Leicestershire County Council is expected to decide on the planning application in July.

In a 27-acre field at Throop

Clump near the village of Briantspuddle, Dorset, another campaign is being waged. English China Clays wants planning permission to extract 225,000 tonnes of gravel.

Paul Badcock, a retired naval officer and organiser of Residents Against Gravel Extraction (RAGE), said their campaign has the backing of English Nature and local and overseas naturalist and heritage groups.

Captain Badcock said that if permission were granted an area of outstanding landscape value would be destroyed and that the rural roads that heavy haulage lorries would use were not only unsuitable but ran through two Sites of Special Scientific Interest. He said that nearby Turners Puddle Heath "is one of the largest continuous areas of lowland heath remaining in Europe... with habitats for many rare and endangered birds, mammals, reptiles and flora".

The thrust of these growing number of campaigns is that the existing national policy is led by

supply rather than demand, putting pressure on county councils to grant planning permission for more sites.

Ben Plowden, CPRE minerals campaigner, says: "Forecasts are based on the predict and produce principle; in other words, that minerals demand will increase. The only decision to be taken is therefore how to meet demand."

The group highlights the case of East Anglia, where a regional working group comprised of industry and county councils responded last week to government forecasts.

Norfolk has cut its estimate for house building by 20,000 dwellings, which is not reflected in the supply predictions. Councils are also required to hold aggregate banks equal to ten years supply even during times of diminishing

economic and construction activity. Bernie Marlett, a minerals officer with Norfolk County Council, confirmed that these requirements increased pressures to grant planning permission in environmentally sensitive areas.

The CPRE is calling for more use of recycled aggregates including demolition, slate, china clay and coals wastes.

About 10 per cent or 30 million tonnes of recycled aggregates are used, which the group believes could be significantly increased by pricing fresh materials — about £4 to £5 a tonne — higher.

This would also give rise more funds to restore countryside after extraction operations have ceased and lead to less waste. Roughly 15 per cent of aggregates delivered to a building site is wasted, campaigners claim.

### 'We will soon have no Mendip Hills'

Such assertions are doubted by the industry, which rejects the claim that quarrying and extraction is supply-led. "Developing a quarry is very expensive. If an individual company gets planning permission, it will also sit down and work out its own minerals forecasts before going ahead," Mr McLaughlin says. He also claimed that even if prices were raised they would still remain a small part of construction costs and that designers prefer to work with materials with proven specifications. He said that studies were being carried out by the Building Research Establishment to see how recycled materials performed but that their use could probably climb only to 50 million tonnes.

At Whitley quarry such views anger people like Mrs Viggiani: "We have been fighting against the industry's too quick, too cheap approach. All that is left now in parts of the east Mendips are great wet holes. It is critically important that we stop this extension."

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## Diabetes danger in a taste of Chinese

Many people have criticised glutamate, the flavouring additive, since investigations showed that it stimulates neural transmitters, the chemical transmitters of impulses within the central nervous system. Yet glutamate is still used, especially in Chinese cooking.

Although we can all probably endure a little stimulation of the brain, glutamate is now in more trouble. For the first time, scientists have found that glutamate affects the secretion of insulin by the pancreas, suggesting the additive may be involved in the pathology of sugar diabetes without anybody having been aware of it.

Dr Joel Bockaert's team at the Centre for Pharmacology and Endocrinology in Montpellier, France, has been working with scientists at the Louvain Laboratory of Pharmacology and Pharmacodynamics, also in Montpellier. Their experiments show that glutamate binds with receptors in the pancreas and stimulates the organ's secretion of insulin, thus upsetting the regulation of glucose levels in the blood.

### Scientists have found new cause for caution over a food additive

The French scientists underline the relevance of their discovery by pointing out that glutamate is already known to bind with at least three different receptors in the central nervous system. They indicate that glutamate may do more than cause headaches; that it is implicated in the death of nerve cells and pathologies of neuronal degeneration.

Glutamate can interact in this way because part of its molecule, is an amino acid — glutamic acid — and a natural unit of proteins, of which all living things are made.

The French scientists treated the pancreases of rats, *in vitro*, with glutamate. The result was an immediate increase in the secretion of insulin. Such an increase in our bodies would normally be caused by an increase of glucose in the blood.

The researchers also found that though the effect of glutamate in their experiments depended on the concentration of glucose in the blood, the increased secretion of insulin continued even when the level of glucose in the blood was low.

The researchers managed to identify the receptor involved in the pancreas. It is a type already known — AMPA — but its identification marks the first time a receptor for glutamate has been studied outside the central nervous system.

No research on the subject has been done in Britain, although Sandor Erdő, a Hungarian scientist working in Sweden, has reviewed the subject in theory. He postulated that glutamate should be interacting with the pancreas and other organs, such as the hormone-secreting adrenals and the pineal gland. Therefore glutamate may be in even more trouble, given a little research on these organs.

It has been suggested that the possible adverse effects of glutamate may greatly depend on the health of the consumer. Healthy people may be in no danger. The French scientists



Fresh doubts are raised on the use of glutamate

believe, however, that glutamate will be accepted as a factor in the pathology of sugar diabetes, a belief supported by the fact that glutamate is already implicated in some pathological conditions of the central nervous system.

EDWARD ASHPOLE

## Rhino auction

FIVE black rhinoceroses, a species either extinct or endangered in most of Africa, are being auctioned to the highest bidder by the Natal Parks Board in South Africa. The rhinos could cost a buyer £250,000, if past prices are any guide.

In a similar auction last year, five black rhinos went to a South African industrialist with a private game farm for about that sum. The board, whose management programmes of both black and white rhinos, have been highly successful, will use the money to fund conservation projects. Potential bidders have to offer to buy all five rhinos so they can breed and the eventual buyer has to guarantee that they will be safe from poachers.

### MS advance

A FATHER whose daughter suffers from multiple sclerosis has developed a bed-mounted bike that is helping to combat the detrimental effects of paralysis.

Sufferers of the nerve-disease can find their legs contracting and ending up under their buttocks, which can

harm circulation. Val Howells, of Narberth, south Pembrokeshire, has adapted a standard exercise bike and added a small electric motor, powered from the mains. Rose-Marie, his daughter, is now able to lie on her back in bed and exercise her legs with minimal effort.

### Stun shirt

GET THIS SHIRT OFF MY BACK!



A FACTORY is taking on China's rising crime rate with a high-tech invention that criminals may find shocking. In Shijiazhuang, capital of Hebei Province, a factory has obtained state patents for a high-voltage "self-defence vest", a wearable cousin of the electric stun gun.

A Chinese newspaper report says: "If the electronic vest is turned on, the wearer can

overpower attackers by giving them electric shocks."

The vest's designers at the Shijiazhuang Electrical Appliance Factory and the State Patent Office say the garment is safe for wearers and muggers alike.

According to the newspaper, "the patentees said the vest would not hurt the wearer and would disable attackers for only a short while."

### Fish story

JAPANESE catfish appear able to predict when earthquakes are about to strike, scientists at the Tokyo Metropolitan Marine Experimental Station claim.

Seven fish, which have been studied for 16 years, consistently peeped up several days before 31 per cent of earthquakes that registered "quite strong" on the Japanese earthquake scale.

Five or six of the fish peeped up before 60 to 70 per cent of the quakes, which is "better than a random association," Yasuo Baba, one of the scientists said.

The research, which last year cost £60,000, was started after references in old books and folk tales were found to claim links between catfish and earthquakes. Some scientists suspect that the fish pick up shifts in weak electrical fields in the Earth.

## Scientists may have the key to El Niño

Climatologists have locked into information that Peruvian fishermen knew in the 16th century — the effects of The Child



Typhoon in Japan: an effect that might have been predictable

BREAKING records is the essence of meteorological journalism. News of searing droughts, unprecedented floods and of the mercury plunging or soaring to untold levels is often reported, yet rarely, if ever, is any pattern discerned in these fluctuations.

Now climatologists are becoming increasingly convinced that many of these extremes can be linked to events in the tropical Pacific. They believe this occurs every few years as the sea surface temperature across the Pacific undergoes widespread and systematic changes. Peruvian fishermen have known since the 16th century that in some years their catches failed. The cause was warm water spreading southwards along the coast, shutting off the cold upwelling nutrient-rich water on which the fish feed.

Because the changes occurred around Christmas they were known as El Niño, Spanish for The Child. But their cause was found in changes that affected the whole of the tropical Pacific.

What happens is that an area of warmer than average water develops off the coast of Peru and over the next year or so spreads across the Pacific. Linked with these changes, atmospheric pressure over

the eastern Pacific falls and rises over Australia and the Indian Ocean. The easterly trade winds that normally blow across the equatorial Pacific reverse, pushing warm water eastwards and capping the cool water that usually flows westwards along the equator.

The changes have worldwide effects because the tropical oceans act as the boiler driving the circulation of the global atmosphere.

During an El Niño, the overall global temperature rises significantly, the Indian monsoon is delayed and severe drought afflicts Indonesia, much of Australia, southern Africa and northern South America. Conversely, the southern United States, the western Pacific and the Peruvian and Ecuadorian coasts are deluged.

Between successive El Niños, the pattern is often reversed. This apparently well-organised response has excited climatologists. But not until the 1980s did these changes cease to be a climatic curiosity.

In 1982 and 1983, the Pacific was hit by the most extreme El Niño for at least a century. The

sheer size of the event made meteorologists realise that this phenomenon was indeed the most important fluctuation in the world's weather on a timescale of a few years.

Intensive studies and a subsequent less extreme El Niño in 1986-87 helped to unravel how the atmosphere and the ocean

interact to produce roughly regular fluctuations in the sea surface temperatures of the Pacific.

Not only did these studies produce believable models of El Niño, they suggested how these changes might extend far into the tropics and even influence North American winters.

By the end of the 1980s, the climatic modellers were convinced their computer simulations could

predict the onset of an El Niño months or even years in advance. Lately, the models have been put to the test.

In 1990 the behaviour of the Pacific began to look as if it was gearing up for an event. Though the computer models did not endorse the superficial reading of shifting wind patterns, the United States Weather Service went ahead with a forecast on the assumption of an El Niño. The service predicted the winter would be exceptionally cold in eastern North America and warm in the west.

In the event, El Niño did not materialise and the winter was almost the diametric opposite to that forecast — round one to the modellers.

By the summer of 1991, several models agreed in their forecast on an El Niño. At the same time Japan was being battered by a record number of typhoons. This time the forecasters heeded the models and produced a prediction that correctly foresaw the record warmth in the upper mid-west and western Canada, with floods in

California and Texas. By now, the modellers were convinced they had the key to predicting El Niño and the consequent abnormal weather.

The implications of being able to predict broad weather patterns months ahead are vast. In tropical and sub-tropical regions, the behaviour of the equatorial Pacific exerts a great influence over whether or not the rainy season is particularly wet or dry. In the north Atlantic, El Niño years are marked by a low level of hurricane activity because the tropical Atlantic tends to be cooler than normal. But while last winter's forecast was a success, in the past the connections between the weather over North America and the El Niño have been less convincing. And there is little evidence that events in the Pacific have a significant effect on British seasonal weather.

This shows that though El Niño may be the biggest event on the global weather scene, there are other important "sideways". Weather patterns may be more dependent on less well orchestrated sea surface temperature changes in the north and south Atlantic or other long-term fluctuations in the climate.

BILL BURROUGHS







## Wheeler dealer

Peugeot Talbot Motors is selling a 4.5-acre site half a mile from Coventry city centre. The site is almost covered by 167,000 sq ft of warehouses and a 9,000 sq ft, two-storey office block. Gerald Eve, the agent, hopes to raise £1 million.

● Bryant Properties has sold its industrial and retail warehouse investment, Maybrook Industrial Park, Leeds, to the Rolls Royce pension fund for £4.35 million.

● WH Smith has signed up for 13,000 sq ft at County Mall, a new shopping centre in Crawley, Sussex. Owen Owen, BHS and Boots have already signed.

● A freehold holiday complex, Tros Yr Afon at Penmon, Anglesey, has been sold by J Trevor & Sons for the joint receivers of Wycombe Car Hire. The property includes a 16th-century manor house with stables converted into holiday units.

● Markheads has completely let Hatfield Office Village, a new development next to the Hertfordshire town's station. Rents were £18 per sq ft with a rent-free period.

● The Royal Navy has asked Humberts to sell HMS St Vincent, otherwise known as Furse House, at Queen's Gate Terrace, South Kensington. The mid-19th century terrace property, listed grade II, was once a hotel and is currently a hostel for naval personnel.

Rodney Hobson on a double coup for Trafalgar House's Brooklands business park

## A Walkman in the park

Trafalgar House has celebrated taking 100 per cent ownership of the 350-acre Brooklands business park in Surrey by announcing two major transactions.

Sony, the Japanese electronics company, is to site its new 180,000 sq ft headquarters on the old racetrack, while Marks & Spencer, the retail chain, is to seek planning permission for a 55,000 sq ft store, including 10,000 sq ft of food retailing.

The Sony deal is claimed to be the biggest letting in the UK to a Japanese company and possibly the largest pre-let achieved on a business park. The 13-acre site will allow for expansion of up to 50,000 sq ft of extra office space. There will be 874 parking spaces.

The three-storey building designed by architects Covell Matthews Wheatley will be built by Trafalgar House Construction to Sony's demanding specifications. It will have two wings and a central atrium.

Work on the site will begin this summer. Sony will move in late next year and will pay £29 per sq ft rent on the 25-year lease, with a short rent rebate. The first rent review will be in five years. Sony has an option to buy the building.

The new building will house management, sales, marketing and



Flower power: Sony's headquarters will have a natural setting

administration. About 550 staff will relocate from four sites, including the current headquarters at Staines, which is already too small and offers no scope for expansion. Some staff will also move from premises occupied by a sister company in Basingstoke.

The decision ends a two-year search by Sony and Bernard Thorpe & Partners, its agent. To avoid moving staff large distances, the search concentrated on an area within the M25 between the A3 and the M4.

Malcolm Willings, deputy man-

aging director of Sony (UK), says: "We looked hard and long at all the options open to us to the west and south-west of London and Brooklands offered us the best facilities in terms of quality and location."

"We need to be reasonably close to Heathrow airport because senior staff do a lot of international travel. We also needed access to the motorway network."

"I looked at 60 sites within the search area. Sony is a very fussy customer."

The lease on the 48,000 sq ft

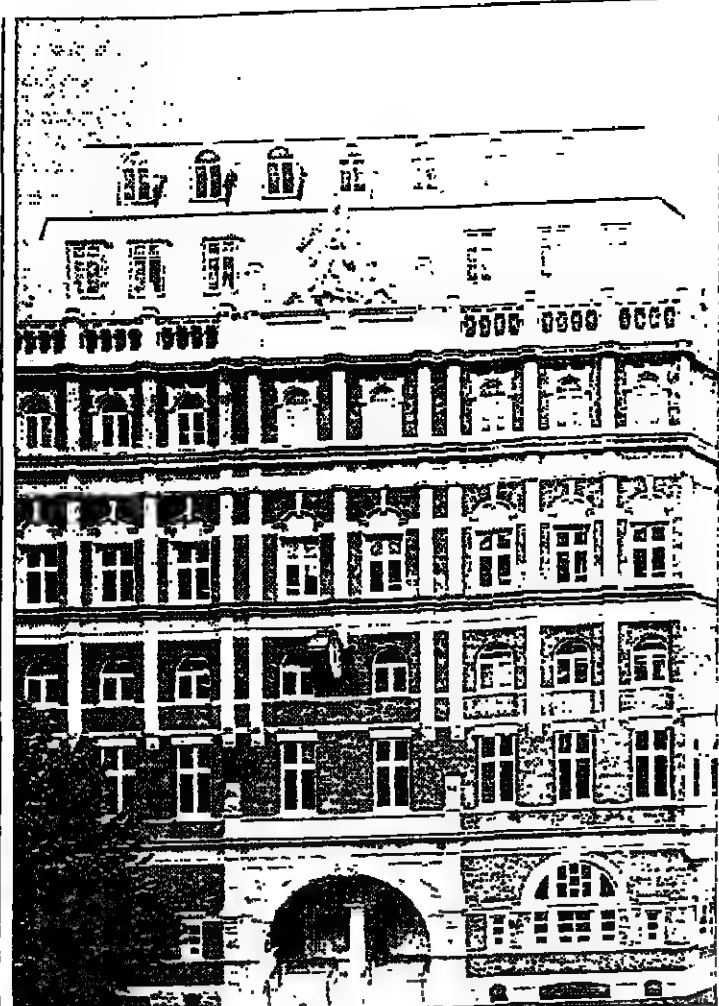
Staines headquarters will be sold. Marks & Spencer has bought a six-acre site next door to the proposed 85,000 sq ft Tesco superstore. Both stores are due to open in mid-1993.

The Brooklands industrial park was owned 50-50 by Trafalgar House and British Aerospace. Trafalgar bought out its partner for an undisclosed sum last week. The site still boasts a banked section of the pre-war racetrack and the control tower used during the war when the area was an airfield.

The Heights, where Sony will be based, has outline planning permission for 750,000 sq ft of office space on 50 acres alongside the river Wey. The retail stores will complete redevelopment of the western sector, where 1 million sq ft of purpose-built distribution and industrial space is occupied.

To the south, a 25-acre residential development is under construction and the final phase, the 145-acre central area, is the subject of a planning application for 700,000 sq ft of business space, a hotel and 70 acres of parkland.

Well-known names taking space are British Aerospace, Mitsui, Courage, Cadbury-Schweppes and John Lewis. All buildings have been pre-let. The joint agents are Debenham Tewson & Chinnocks and Robert Neil.



A Swedish consortium, Golden Lane Properties, has completed the refurbishment of Fortune Court, a 105,000 sq ft office development in the City of London. Joint letting agents are Healey & Baker and Henry Davis City.

Trade: 071-481 1986  
Private: 071-481 4000

## PROPERTY BUYERS GUIDE

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3 bed apart on 1st floor with private garden, fully fitted kitchen, central heating, £2500 p/w.

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This is an exciting and challenging position offering you ample opportunity to develop your full potential. To meet the challenge you must be aged 25-30, smartly presented with a strong, resilient and gregarious personality. Your skills must be good, 100/60 plus WPM/computer experience. A background in finance would be an advantage, particularly on the trading floor, however, the right personality will win the day.

Please call Marianne Hope on 071 734 8484 for further information.

£19,500 + benefits  
This is just one of many positions we are currently working on which may be right for you. Others include: Corporate Finance, Marketing, Fund Management, Retail, Oil, Insurance. Salaries range from £13,000 - £16,500 (not all need short hand). Please do call for a friendly and informal chat about your career plans.

PAN EUROPEAN RECRUITMENT

071-734 8484

## JOHN LEWIS PARTNERSHIP

Chairman's Office

London, Victoria

£8.50 - £10.00 PER HOUR + BENEFITS

Part-time secretary wanted to work Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday to complement another working Thursday and Friday (22 1/2 hour working week). Full-time hours required to cover office holidays.

Excellent shorthand and typing and a confident telephone manner required, as well as suitable experience.

Benefits include: 4 weeks' holiday (5 weeks after 3 years' service), shopping discounts in Waitrose and the Partnership's department stores and the best profit sharing scheme in the country.

To apply, please write with full career details to: The Staff Manager, Central Offices, John Lewis Partnership, 171 Victoria Street, London SW1E 5NN. Ref: T/8/4.

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to £15,000

Fabulous opportunity has arisen to join a small, highly successful live entertainment company based in W6. They provide the crowning glory for clients, organising the appropriate disco, secretary (50 typing) with a cheerful manner and a flexible attitude who has the potential to progress after a 6 month period. Age 20-25. Car driver essential. Long hours on occasions. Please telephone: Verna Hilderson on 071-434 4512

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RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

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OFFICE ORGANISER

Enthusiastic, mature 23-28 year old with good organisation ability and full office experience, including good basic software knowledge, for busy French property sales office in Central London. £12,500 plus. Start immediately.

Please reply with C.V. to Box No 8120.

## PROPERTY SECRETARY

£17,000 +

An exciting role has arisen for an enthusiastic secretary to assist two directors in a small firm of property consultants based in the City. Using your organisational ability, you will arrange meetings, lunches and travel, take minutes and become involved in marketing, PR and corporate functions. Preferably living in Greater London and having accurate speeds of 100/60 and knowledge of WordPerfect 5.1, you will have well developed interpersonal skills, a flexible approach, a sense of humour and are likely to be aged 27-34. If you are looking for variety and involvement write with copy of CV to Jonathan Edwards, 1 Finsbury Market, London EC2A 2AQ.

No agencies.

## St Bartholomew's Hospital,

London EC1

Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery

SENIOR MEDICAL SECRETARY

Up to £13,260 pa plus performance payments

Experienced Medical Secretary required for busy expanding department to work primarily for the consultants but also to help co-ordinate the cardiac transplant programme. Excellent secretarial, communication and organisational skills required.

For application details please contact the Human Resources Department on 071 601 8590, quoting ref J/591.

Closing date: 21st April 1992.

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Working towards full Trust status in 1993  
Committed to Equal Opportunities

## RECEPTIONIST/TYPIST

Established Interior Design & Property Company with prestigious Mayfair showroom and offices requires a Receptionist/Typist aged 20+ to work in a small busy team, with excellent future prospects. Candidates must be professional, organized and able to use own initiative. Smart appearance is necessary as you will be meeting with clients. The array of general duties include answering the telephone and all the office typing (60wpm). Experience of WordPerfect W.P. essential. The daily office routine varies therefore a flexible attitude is needed. Hours 9.30-5.30 Mon-Fri. Salary circa £11,000.00 C.V. only to:

Mrs B Harris, Solihull Interiors Ltd, 61 South Andley Street, Mayfair, London W1Y 5EB  
OR Fax on 071 499 0403

## SECRETARY - ADVERTISING

For Board Account Director and his team at small ad agency. Must have good agency experience. Must have good agency experience, client liaison, audio, familiar with WPs, fast, efficient, accurate, smart etc etc and able to work late as required. Start date end April. Salary AAE. Call Claire on 071-499 0020

## PA TO CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Salary in excess of £20,000

Chief Executive of City-based international consultants requires a first class professional PA.

Excellent opportunity for an exceptional candidate who must demonstrate experience at a very senior level and polished communication skills.

The position will bring a high level of responsibility and involvement in the overall running of the organisation. Knowledge of German/French would assist liaison with our overseas offices, but is not essential.

Fast, accurate shorthand and typing essential although they will not form a major part of this role.

Substantial salary and remuneration package. Please write, in strict confidence, enclosing a C.V.:

Annabelle Lawrence, AYH Partnership, 40 Clifton Street, LONDON EC2A 4AY  
071-418 1225

## DIRECTOR'S PA

£21K PACKAGE

This large international Merchant Bank wish to recruit a pro-active and highly motivated PA.

Secretary to work in their Investment Banking division for a dynamic team of executive directors.

The environment is frenetic and dynamic and so requires a highly organised and efficient PA who can work in an exciting and pressurised position. You will be organising their complex travel itineraries, diaries and meetings, as well as looking after client portfolios.

Banking background essential as are excellent secretarial skills and academic qualifications. Age: 24-38

Call us now on 071 726 8491

ANGELA MORTIMER

Secretarial Recruitment Consultancy

## SECRETARY/OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

LETTING &amp; PROPERTY MANAGEMENT CO.

C/£14,000 neg West End Office

Superb opportunity for smart, mature (30+) person to join small, well established family business. Good secretarial and communication skills essential, lots of client contact.

Tel: Laura Watson 071 580 6275 for details

## WEDNESDAY

Creative &amp; Media Appointments: with editorial.

La Crème de la Crème:

Secretarial appointments.

Property: Residential, Town &amp; Country.

Overseas, Rentals.

Commercial Property: with editorial.

General Appointments: Management, Engineering, Science &amp; Technology, with editorial.

Accountancy &amp; Finance.

La Crème de la Crème:

Secretarial appointments.

## THURSDAY

General Appointments: Management, Engineering, Science &amp; Technology, with editorial.

Accountancy &amp; Finance.

La Crème de la Crème:

Secretarial appointments.

## FRIDAY

International Appointments: Overseas Opportunities.

Matters: The complete car buyer's guide with editorial.

Business to Business: Business opportunities.

## SATURDAY

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Shoppers: shopping from the comfort of your own home.

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La Crème de la Crème:

Secretarial appointments.

## TUESDAY

Legal Appointments: Solicitors.

Commercial Lawyers, Legal Officers, Private and Public Practice with editorial.

Public Appointments.

## WEDNESDAY

Creative &amp; Media Appointments: with editorial.

La Crème de la Crème:

Secretarial appointments.

Property: Residential, Town &amp; Country.

Overseas, Rentals.

Commercial Property: with editorial.

General Appointments: Management, Engineering, Science &amp; Technology, with editorial.

Accountancy &amp; Finance.

La Crème de la Crème:

Secretarial appointments.

## THURSDAY

General Appointments: Management, Engineering, Science &amp; Technology, with editorial.

Accountancy &amp; Finance.

La Crème de la Crème:

Secretarial appointments.

## FRIDAY

International Appointments: Overseas Opportunities.

Matters: The complete car buyer's guide with editorial.

Business to Business: Business opportunities.











**LIFE & TIMES WEDNESDAY APRIL 8 1992**

CHANNEL4

- 6.00 **Channel 4 Daily** (9105662)
- 9.25 **The Munders** (b/w). Vintage comedy about a ghoulish American family (r) (4745408)
- 9.55 **The Travellers**. Episode one of a 13-part children's drama series (r) (5822925)
- 10.55 **Prophet and Loss**. Animated updated version of the story of Ophusius and Eurdice (8851040)
- 11.00 **Beyond the Barrier**. A portrait of Bath car park attendant Philip Steff who doubles as a "ghostbuster" (r) (7088)
- 11.30 **Get Smart**. Spoof secret agent adventures starring Don Adams (8717)
- 12.00 **Noah's Ark**. A visit to the world's highest national park — the Laucis in the Tarapaca region of Chile (r) (56408)
- 12.30 **Business Daily**. Reports and analysis from the world's money markets (25819)
- 1.00 **Sesame Street**. Entertaining pre-school learning series (r) (96514)
- 2.00 **Film: The Road to Glory** (1936, b/w) starring Fredric March. First we were warned about a commander and a young officer who fall for the same nurse. Directed by Howard Hawks (130717)
- 3.55 **The Last Station**. Yugoslav animation (3307822)
- 4.00 **Short Stories: Plane Safer**. A documentary featuring three people attending a course to try and conquer their fear of flying (r) (208)
- 4.30 **Plan to One**. Fast moving general knowledge quiz presented by William G. Stewart (r) (972)
- 5.00 **The Oprah Winfrey Show**. Today's guests are people who had a poor upbringing and were considered "white trash" (4813601)
- 5.55 **Laurel and Hardy**. Cartoon (r) (549214)
- 6.00 **Kate & Allie**. American comedy series starring Jane Curtin and Susan Saint James (137)
- 6.30 **Jimmy Kimmel with Jonnie Ross**. The guests include Henry Enfield, Roy Greenleaf, a former editor of the *Daily Mirror* and, providing the mock, *Spiral Tap* (r) (717)
- 7.00 **Channel 4 News** with Jan Snow and Zeinab Badawi. (Teletext) Weather (162750)
- 7.50 **Comment** (394595)
- 8.00 **Brookside**. Soap set in suburban Merseyside. (Teletext) (8595)
- 8.30 **Food File**. Drew Smith investigates whether our food is really as safe as it is claimed to be (r) (634)
- 9.00 **Dispatches**. Have television viewers really learnt anything from the past four weeks of campaigning? (314137)
- 9.45 **Letters From St Petersburg**.



**No strings attached? Kinnock, Ashdown and Major (10.40p)**

- 10.40 **Splitting the Election Special.** An eve-of-poll airing for the political race puppets (905845)
- 11.10 **Film: Satisfaction** (1988) starring Justin Bazerman. Disappointing drama about a female rock band basking at an swish club resort, that pulls out all the stops when it comes to clichés. Directed by Joan Freeman (216933)
- 12.55 **Visions.** Includes American writer Maya Angelou on the role religion plays in her life (r) (2304460)
- 1.25 **Film: Central Airport** (1933, b/w) starring Richard Barthelmess. Vintage aerial drama about a pilot who considers giving up after surviving a near fatal crash — until he meets a glamorous female parachutist. Directed by William A. Wellman (2822462)
- 2.45 **Hollywood Report.** Life in Tinseltown from the British point of view (86170)
- 3.15 **America's Top Ten** presented by Casey Kasem (w) (80938)
- 4.00 **Newsflash.** How the 1980s influence the 1970s (612644)
- 4.15 **Quiz Night.** Inter pub and club competition (11973604)
- 4.40 **Along the Cobleskill Way.** Chie Gunnell travels the last lap to Drovers Hill (2651846)
- 5.00 **Fifty Years On** (b/w). Archive newsreels clips (9056606)
- 5.30 **ITV Morning News** (98335). Encores at 6.00



**11.00 Drop the Dead Donkey.** Award-winning comedy series set in the offices of a television news station (7) (s) (9069)  
**11.30 Tonight with Jonathan Ross.** See 6.30 (7) (s) (35750)  
**12.00 Midnight Special** presented by Vincent Hanna (61354)  
**2.00 Dick Spanner.** Animated private detective series (3126064). Ends at 2.05

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John Major  
minister, Li

Day (FM only): Growing Pride.  
Neil Waller and David Clayton  
talk about the charity's work. It  
opens to the public under the  
National Garden Scheme.  
15 Daily Service (LW only)  
17 The 100 (LW only) Arco.  
Art Malik reads the second of  
two selections from the  
1994-95 David Webster  
19-12.00 Campaign Report (LW  
only) John Humphrys  
20-12.00 News (FM only)  
Includes a discussion on  
wrestling, and an item on  
expensive gardening, led  
11.00 News  
30 Gameshow: Question Time  
FM only: Members of the  
Welsh Horticultural Society  
in Poughall, Wales, put their  
questions to the experts (F)

7.45 The News on Our Flash (FM only):  
Dian Oliver, chief constable  
of the Hampshire region,  
describes the reaction of a  
policeman to the teaching of  
sex education.  
8.00-9.00 Campaign Report (LW  
only)  
8.00 Medicine Now (FM only) (F)  
8.30-9.00 The Cutting Edge (FM  
only)  
9.00-9.30 Last week, in this  
choice series about medical  
events, it was the case of a  
stroke victim and whether it  
would have been merciful to  
let her die. Tonight, the  
case of the 23-week-old baby  
which a GP, working in an  
accident and emergency, tried  
to resuscitate because he  
thought he had created "a brain"

12.25pm Lord Ed  
Fourth of a

Weather

10-11 **Archers** (FM only) (LW only)

12-13 **The Archers** (FM only) (LW only)

14-15 **Shipping Forecast**

16-17 **Black Stockings and Broken Mirrors**, Bernadette

18-19 **Crashwater's first post for radio stars** Maureen O'Brien as Christine, who is haunted by a car accident when she meets her new neighbour

20-21 **Margot Boyl**

22-23 **Crashwater's Islands** (LW only)

24-25 **A Cold Campaign Report** (LW only)

26-27 **Golden Age** (FM only): Oscar

28-29 **In 1961 Oscar Sattner**, aged four, emigrated from British Columbia to London. The British freelance writer, he returns to

30-31 **Emisoror**: The baby had, in fact, returned from the dead, although it eventually died, and the mother's trauma resulted from having to live with alternating despair and hope. We hear from doctor and mother together. Why do we not also hear from our hospital? (S)

32-33 **9.00 The Peter Day**

34-35 **examines the slump in the commercial property market**

36-37 **9.30 The Financial World Tonight** (S) 9.55 Weather

38-39 **10.00 The World Tonight** (S)

40-41 **A Book at Bedtime: Love is Blue**, by Joan Wyndham. Read by Patricia Scott (S of 10)

42-43 **11.00 Carry on Up the Ziegfeld** (S)

44-45 **11.30 Election Plans**

46-47 **12.00 The News**, and 12.22 Weather 12.55

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